

CONFIDENTIAL.

(5375.)

PART XII.

F.O.

403

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF NORTH AFRICA.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 5211.]

57

January to June 1886.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of North Africa.

PART XII.

(In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 5211.)

No. 1.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Mr. Sandwith.

(No. 1.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, January 2, 1886.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you herewith a copy of a Petition addressed by Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar, of Valetta, Malta, to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,* advancing a claim for compensation on account of losses alleged to have been sustained by them at Gabes in June 1881.

The name of Messrs. Scicluna appears in the list of the outstanding claims of British subjects sent home by the late Mr. Reade in his despatch No. 36 of the 11th December, 1883, and he suggested that recourse should be had to arbitration.

I am to request that you will furnish his Lordship with a Report upon the inclosed Petition.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 2.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Sir R. Herbert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 2, 1886.

WITH reference to your letter of the 29th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to request that you will state to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies that the Petition from Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar will be forwarded to the British Consul at Tunis for inquiry and report.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 3.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 1.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, January 4, 1886.

YOUR despatch No. 81 of the 14th ultimo reporting on the subject of recent outrages on Jews in Morocco has been received, and I have to state that your action in the matter, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch, is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

* In Colonial Office letter of December 29, 1885.

No. 4.

*Sir J. Poncefote to Sir J. Goldsmid, M.P. (Anglo-Jewish Association).**

Sir,
I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you herewith, for your information, copies of despatches, as marked in the margin,† from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, reporting the steps which he has taken in regard to recent outrages on Jews in Morocco.

Foreign Office, January 8, 1886.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 5.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 2.) Foreign Office, January 11, 1886.
[Transmits copy of Sir Clare Ford's No. 166 of December 22, 1885.]

No. 6.

Mr. Löwy to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 16.)

My Lord,
100, Sutherland Gardens, London, January 15, 1886.
I HAVE most gratefully to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter and printed documents regarding the unfortunate events at Demnat and Fez.

The papers intended for the Board of Deputies (identical with those addressed to the Anglo-Jewish Association) have been duly forwarded to that Board.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. LÖWY, Secretary.

No. 7.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 5.)
My Lord,
Tangier, January 12, 1886.
I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Chevalier Paul de Reglia, Chargé d'Affaires and Consul-General for Austria-Hungary, arrived here yesterday. He was the bearer of a jewelled casket, having on it the portrait of the Emperor Francis Joseph, which His Imperial and Royal Majesty has deigned to present me.

With reference to the subject of my despatches No. 63 of the 6th August and No. 74 of the 14th October, M. de Reglia informed me that Dr. Schmidl, who had caused me so much annoyance by his proceedings, has been dismissed from the post of Imperial and Royal Consul at Tangier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 8.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 6.)
My Lord,
Tangier, January 13, 1886.
WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 4th instant, and to my despatch No. 81 of the 14th ultimo, regarding the outrages on Jews, I have the honour to transmit the translation of a letter addressed to me by the Vizir in reply to the identic

* Also to Mr. A. Cohen, M.P. (London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews).
† Sir J. Drummond Hay, No. 65, August 20; ditto, No. 81, December 14, 1885.

communications made to him on this subject by me in concert with the French and Italian Representatives. They have also received replies from the Vizir couched in the same terms as the inclosed translation.

I have arranged with my colleagues of France and Italy that we should await the result of the inquiry which the Vizir tells us is about to be instituted regarding the outrages on Jews at Demnat and elsewhere.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure in No. 8.

The Vizir to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.)

January 2, 1886.

WE have received your letter regarding the Jews of Demnat, and have submitted it to our Lord the Sultan, and His Majesty has taken cognizance of its contents, and has ordered me to answer to the first of the four paragraphs of it, in which you suggest the necessity of depriving the Governor of Demnat of his jurisdiction over the Jews for the future, and to appoint the Governor of Morocco or his Khalifa to govern them. It is a long time since the said Governor has been deprived of his jurisdiction over the Jews, and he is ordered not to interfere with them in any matter, and the Kaïd Hamida-el-Munehhi has been appointed Governor over the Jews, and we have made this known to you before; there appear to be now grounds for dismissing this new Governor and for appointing another one. Now we proceed to reply to the three other points—(1) as to returning the property to the Jews after their stating on oath, according to their religious rite, that which was taken from them by force; (2) as to paying the blood-money for the Jews who have been killed; (3) as to the investigation of the statement that eight Jews had been murdered or wounded at Fez and its neighbourhood. The answer to these last three paragraphs cannot be given until each affair has been investigated and the truth has been arrived at.

The Jews will receive equal justice with the Mahommedans, and no injustice will be done to either; and afterwards we will give you an answer on each of these matters according to your request. Your letter reached us on Friday, the 25th instant, through Kaïd Maclean, and the next day we delivered him this answer, with the answers to the French Minister and the Italian Chargé d'Affaires, which we inclose. We have received also the Memorandum about the other cases regarding Jews, and, please God, will soon give a reply on the subject.

Peace.

(Signed) MOHAMMED BEN EL ARBY.

No. 9.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 23.)

(No. 2. Commercial.)

My Lord,
Tunis, January 15, 1886.
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Foreign Office despatch No. 1 of the 2nd instant, calling for a Report on a Petition of Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar, of Malta, advancing a claim for compensation on account of losses alleged to have been sustained by them in June 1881, when Gabes was occupied by French troops, and their stores, alleged to contain a quantity of esparto grass, burnt.

From an examination of the correspondence existing in this Consulate on the above subject, it appears, as stated by the petitioners, that a first Commission sat at Gabes on the 10th April, 1883, to inquire into their claim, which was allowed with a reduction, the sum of 5,000 fr. having been awarded to the firm of Messrs. Scicluna and Son, and 23,000 fr. to that of Messrs. Scicluna-Tajar.

But the award of this Commission was disallowed by the French Ministry of War, and on the 14th June General Forgemol de Bostiquenard, commanding the army of occupation, addressed a letter to M. Cambon, the Minister Resident, formally rejecting the award of the Commission, as having been granted without the production of documentary evidence in support of the alleged losses, and another Commission was ordered to sit on the 27th August following. This second Commission reduced the

original award of 5,000 fr. to a nominal sum, and rejected the claim of Scicluna-Tajar until such time as they could produce proofs of their losses.

The late Mr. Reade appears to have suggested at this stage of the proceedings that the claim should be submitted to arbitration; but I do not find in the Consular archives that such a proposal was made in writing, and I am led to suppose that it was only made verbally. Mr. Reade, however, appears to have believed that arbitration had been agreed to in principle, since on the 15th March, 1884, he thus writes to the Chargé d'Affaires: "Having informed Messrs. Scicluna and Sons, of Malta, of the arrangement come to with regard to their Gabes claim, I am requested by those gentlemen to state that they have appointed Mr. Enrico Bensasson, the lawyer, to act as their arbiter in the matter." The despatch goes on to request that the name of the arbitrator selected by the military authorities be communicated to him. I do not find in the archives any answer to this letter.

The correspondence with the French Residency seems now to have dropped; but on the 12th January, 1885, it was again taken up by Acting Consul Dr. Arpa, who wrote to M. Cambon to inform him that he had appointed another arbitrator to replace Mr. Bensasson, who was dead, and requesting that an arbitrator might be appointed on the part of the Tunisian Government.

To this letter M. Cambon replied on the 31st of the same month, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, together with its annex. In this letter M. Cambon states that the General commanding the division of occupation is of opinion that he cannot make any further application to the French Ministry of War on the subject.

On the 27th March last Dr. Arpa again wrote to M. Cambon, inclosing copy of a letter of Mr. Pisani, herewith inclosed, in which it is stated that the late Mr. Reade had informed him (Mr. Pisani) that there was an understanding that the claim should be adjudicated by arbitration.

M. Cambon, on the 30th March, replied by stating that in all the papers connected with the claim he had found no trace of the arrangement for an arbitration, that the Minister of War had decided that as Messrs. Scicluna's agents had refused to produce any proofs of their losses (the original documents being alleged to have been burnt) they could not proceed in the matter till the production by the claimants of the proofs demanded. Copy of this letter I have also the honour to inclose.

It would appear that it is on the strength of this latter statement of the French Minister of War that Messrs. Scicluna now reiterate their claim for compensation, as they assert in their Petition that "they have had in hand since some time some proofs regarding their losses, that they can produce witnesses, as also an exact account of the esparto, &c., possessed by them at Gabes, made up from note-books and papers of their agent, Mr. Coen, and other documents."

It is to be regretted that these notes and accounts were not produced at an earlier stage of the inquiry, for I anticipate that the French military authorities will make strenuous objections to a reopening of the inquiry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 9.

M. Cambon to Dr. Arpa.

M. le Gérant,

Tunis, le 31 Janvier, 1886.

M. LE Général commandant la division d'occupation de Tunisie, à qui j'ai communiqué la requête de Mr. Pisani, mandataire de la maison Scicluna, de Malte, que vous m'aviez adressée le 12 de ce mois, vient de me faire connaître que vu les termes précis et formels d'une dépêche de M. le Ministre de la Guerre relative à cette affaire, et transmise à la Résidence au mois de Septembre dernier, il ne croit pas devoir intervenir à nouveau auprès de ce Ministre pour obtenir des instructions à ce sujet.

La teneur de cette dépêche a été donnée à M. le Gérant du Consulat-Général d'Italie à Tunis le 29 Septembre, 1883, alors que M. Avvocato était le représentant de la maison Scicluna. Vous trouverez ci-inclus copie de ce document, que je vous serai obligé de vouloir bien mettre sous les yeux de Mr. Pisani.

Agréé, &c.
(Signé) PAUL CAMBON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 9.

General Forgemol to M. Cambon.

M. le Ministre Résident,

Tunis, le 27 Septembre, 1883.

POUR faire suite à ma lettre en date du 7 Septembre courant, j'ai l'honneur de vous adresser ci-après copie d'une dépêche que je reçois du Ministre de la Guerre (2^e Direction, Bureau de la Justice Militaire):—

"En réponse à ma dépêche du 14 Juin dernier vous m'avez transmis, le 8 de ce mois, le procès-verbal de la Conférence qui s'est réunie, le 27 Août, 1883, pour examiner à nouveau les réclamations d'indemnité élevées, au nom du Sieur Scicluna et de la Société Scicluna-Tajar, à raison de dégâts commis par les troupes lors de l'occupation de Sfax.

"Il résulte de ce document que le Sieur Avvocato, fondé de pouvoirs des intéressés, s'est, malgré plusieurs mises en demeure, refusé à produire les pièces justificatives nécessaires pour permettre d'apprécier le montant des pertes subies par ses clients, et que, par suite, les membres de la Commission se sont vus dans l'impossibilité de formuler des conclusions.

"Dans cette situation j'estime avec vous que le Sieur Avvocato étant, en sa qualité de demandeur, légalement tenu de faire la preuve du dommage dont il réclame la réparation, il y a lieu de surseoir à toute décision jusqu'au jour où il plaira soit à lui, soit à ses mandants, de répondre aux invitations réitérées qui lui ont été adressées à cet effet.

"Je vous prie de vouloir bien en informer l'intéressé."

Je vous serai, en conséquence, reconnaissant de vouloir bien faire notifier cette décision au Sieur Avvocato, fondé de pouvoirs du Sieur Scicluna et de la Société Scicluna-Tajar.

Veillez, &c.
(Signé) L. FORGEMOL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 9.

Mr. Pisani to Dr. Arpa.

Tunis, le 15 Mars, 1885.

M. le Consul Juge,

EN réponse aux communications que vous avez bien voulu me faire relativement à la réclamation de Messrs. Scicluna et Fils, de Malte, pour dommages encourus lors de l'occupation de Gabes par les troupes Françaises, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer:

Que je n'ai jamais eu de relations directes avec la Résidence concernant cette affaire et par conséquent je ne puis dire ce qui eut lieu entre la Résidence et le Consulat-Général d'Angleterre.

Que je ne puis que répéter ce qui m'a été communiqué par Mr. Reade après son arrivée de l'Angleterre en 1884, ce que j'ai textuellement référé à Messrs. Scicluna et Fils, de Malte.

Le 29 Février, 1884, Mr. Reade me fit savoir qu'il avait été convenu entre la Résidence et le Consulat-Général d'Angleterre de nommer deux arbitres: l'un choisi par la Résidence, l'autre par Messrs. Scicluna et Fils, et en cas de divergence, les deux arbitres devaient nommer un tiers.

Le 3 Mars, 1884, Messrs. Scicluna me télégraphièrent pour savoir quand et où l'arbitrage devait avoir lieu; j'ai immédiatement interpellé Mr. Reade, qui me dit de faire à Messrs. Scicluna et Fils la dépêche suivante: "Reçu dépêche. Nommez de suite votre arbitre. Envoyez-le ici on verra ensuite quand et où. Résidence nomma déjà le sien."

Messrs. Scicluna envoyèrent ici un fondé de pouvoirs qui choisit comme arbitre le feu Avvo. E. Bensasson, et comme Avocat, le feu Avvo. Elena.

Ces messieurs étudièrent l'affaire, et attendirent le moment voulu, mais le 12 Avril suivant, voyant qu'on ne leur avait donné aucun ordre ni instructions, j'en ai encore tenu parole à Mr. Reade, qui me répondit alors que la Résidence n'avait pas encore désigné son arbitre.

Lorsque Sir Adrian Dingli arriva à Tunis, Mr. Reade m'informa que Lord Granville lui avait télégraphié qu'il pouvait, si j'aurais voulu, faire décider mon affaire par M. de Blignères et Sir Adrian Dingli.

Je répondis qu'ayant déjà désigné un arbitre je ne pouvais lui faire le tort de le remplacer sans raison.

[663]

Après quoi nous avons attendu jusqu'à ce que Messrs. Scicluna me donnèrent des instructions pour vous adresser la demande qui a fait l'objet de vos communications avec la Résidence et que j'ai régulièrement transmise à Messrs. Scicluna et Fils.

Ces derniers viennent de me prier de faire tout mon possible pour définir leur affaire.

Voilà, M. le Consul, ce que j'ai l'honneur de vous référer en exécution des instructions reçues de mes mandants.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. PISANI.

Inclosure 4 in No. 9.

M. Cambon to Dr. Arpa.

M. le Gérant,

Tunis, le 30 Mars, 1885.

J'AI pris connaissance de la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser le 27 de ce mois, ainsi que de celle de Mr. Pisani, mandataire de MM. Scicluna et Fils, de Malte, qui y était annexée. J'ai revu également tout le dossier relatif à cette réclamation.

Or, je n'ai pas trouvé trace dans ce dossier de l'arrangement en vertu duquel la solution de la question serait soumise à un arbitrage.

Par une lettre du 15 Mars, 1884, feu Mr. Reade a, il est vrai, informé la Résidence que MM. Scicluna et Fils avaient désigné Mr. Henri Bensasson pour leur arbitre, mais en répondant à cette communication, le 29 du même mois, M. le Général commandant la division d'occupation déclara formellement "qu'il n'avait reçu aucune instruction pour faire de son côté une désignation analogue." Cette réponse fut transmise à Mr. Reade, par lettre du 31 Mars, 1884, du Baron d'Estournelles, et elle n'a donné lieu à aucune objection de la part de M. l'Agent et Consul-Général de Sa Majesté Britannique.

La question n'a été reprise que par vous, M. le Gérant, et au même point, le 12 Janvier dernier.

Il y a, en ce qui concerne cet arbitrage, une confusion ou un malentendu que je ne saurais m'expliquer. Pour moi, il résulte clairement du dossier que la réclamation Scicluna avait été évoquée devant la Commission chargée de statuer sur les demandes en indemnité qui avaient été formulées à raison de l'occupation de Gabes par nos troupes, que M. Léopoldo Avvocato, alors mandataire des Sieurs Scicluna, avait, malgré plusieurs mises en demeure, refusé de produire les pièces justificatives nécessaires pour apprécier le montant des pertes subies par son client, et que, informé de ce refus, M. le Ministre de la Guerre a décidé qu'il y avait lieu d'attendre la production des preuves réclamées.

Voilà, en réalité, M. le Gérant, où en est cette affaire, et je vous serais obligé de vouloir bien en aviser Mr. Pisani, nouveau mandataire de MM. Scicluna et Fils.

Agréé, &c.
(Signé) PAUL CAMBON

No. 10.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 65.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 2, 1886.

I INCLOSE herewith, for your Excellency's information, copies of correspondence, as marked in the margin,* relative to a claim advanced by Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar, of Malta, on account of losses alleged to have been sustained by them in June 1881, when Gabes, in the Regency of Tunis, was occupied by French troops.

There appears to have been a misunderstanding with regard to the settlement of this claim by arbitration, owing to which it was not submitted for the decision of Sir A. Dingli and M. de Blignières when those gentlemen met at Tunis to investigate and decide upon all outstanding British claims.

Under these circumstances, and as Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar now declare that they are prepared to produce witnesses and documentary evidence in support of their claim, I have to request your Excellency to bring the case to the notice of the French

Colonial Office, December 29, 1885; Mr. Sandwith, No. 2, Commercial, January 15; to Colonial Office, February 2; to Mr. Sandwith, No. 3, February 2, 1886.

Government, to invite their favourable consideration of it, and to urge them to instruct their Representative at Tunis to take steps for a settlement of the claim by arbitration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 11.

Sir J. Pouncefote to Consul Sandwith.

(No. 3.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 2, 1886.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 2, Commercial, of the 15th ultimo, reporting upon the claim advanced by Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar, of Malta, on account of losses alleged to have been sustained by them in June 1881, when Gabes, in the Regency of Tunis, was occupied by French troops.

It is unfortunate that this claim was not submitted for the decision of Sir A. Dingli and M. de Blignières when those gentlemen met at Tunis to settle all outstanding British claims.

As the omission, however, appears to have arisen from a misunderstanding, his Lordship has addressed an instruction to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, copy of which is inclosed for your information, requesting his Excellency to bring the case to the notice of the French Government, and to urge them to consent to its settlement by arbitration.*

I also inclose a copy of a letter which has been addressed to the Colonial Office, suggesting that Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar should be requested to place themselves in direct communication with yourself.† Should the French Government agree to the arbitration, it is Lord Salisbury's wish that you should afford the claimants all the assistance in your power in the prosecution of their demand.

I am to observe that your despatch now under acknowledgment should have been numbered in your Political, and not in your Commercial, Series, as the Foreign Office instruction to which it refers belonged to the Political Series.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 12.

Sir J. Pouncefote to Sir R. Herbert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 2, 1886.

WITH reference to your letter of the 29th December, 1885, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to request that you will lay before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, for his information, the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Tunis, reporting on the claim advanced by Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar, of Malta, on account of losses alleged to have been sustained by them in June 1881, when Gabes, in the Regency of Tunis, was occupied by French troops.‡

There appears to have been a misunderstanding with regard to the settlement of this claim by arbitration, owing to which it was not submitted for the decision of Sir A. Dingli and M. de Blignières, when those gentlemen met at Tunis to investigate and decide upon all outstanding British claims.

Under these circumstances, an instruction, of which I inclose a copy, has been addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, requesting him to bring the case to the notice of the French Government, and to urge them to consent to its settlement by arbitration.*

Lord Salisbury, however, does not entertain much hope that the French Government will consent to reopen the case.

I am to suggest that an intimation to the above effect should be conveyed to Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar, and that they should be requested to place themselves in direct communication with Mr. Consul Sandwith, who will be instructed to give them all

* No. 10.

† No. 12.

‡ No. 9.

the assistance in his power in the prosecution of their claim, should the French Government agree to the arbitration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 13.

Mr. Cohen to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

My Lord, 2, Paper Buildings Temple, February 5, 1886.
I HAD the honour to submit to the Jewish Board of Deputies your Lordship's letter of the 8th January, 1886, containing copies of despatches received by your Lordship from Her Britannic Majesty's Minister at Tangier relating to recent outrages upon Jews in Morocco.

I am directed by the Board to thank your Lordship for having kindly transmitted these documents, and to express to you its warm thanks for the benefits which have accrued to the unfortunate Jews of Morocco from your Lordship's humane intervention on their behalf.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR COHEN, President.

No. 14.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 7.)
My Lord, Tangier, January 30, 1886.
WITH reference to my despatch No. 6 of the 13th January on the subject of the Jews of Demnat, I have the honour to transmit translations of a letter addressed to me by the Vizir Garnit, and of my reply.

Identical letters were addressed to the French Minister and Italian Chargé d'Affaires, and their replies to the Vizir were the same as mine.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 14.

Cid Emfadi Garnit to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(Traduction.)
(Après les compliments d'usage.) 1 Rabia II, 1303 (7 Janvier, 1886).
NOUS vous avons écrit au sujet des deux paragraphes relatifs à la question des Juifs de Demnat et ayant trait à la remise d'une indemnité à ceux qui prétendent avoir eu dans leur famille des personnes tuées, et à la restitution par le Gouverneur de Demnat des biens immeubles et effets mobiliers après serment prêté d'après leur religion qu'ils ne réclamaient que leur droit strict. Nous vous avons dit que notre réponse au sujet de ces deux paragraphes serait retardée à cause de la nécessité de faire une enquête sur ce qui s'est passé avant de statuer, et cela afin de ne léser les intérêts d'aucune des parties.

Le Gouverneur a donc fait savoir aux Juifs susdits d'avoir à indiquer ceux de leurs coreligionnaires qui ont été tués et aussi les meurtriers, afin de les faire passer en jugement et de leur faire payer l'indemnité dont nous avons parlé plus haut. Les Juifs ont désigné en effet leurs tués.

L'enquête faite en dehors des dépositions des Israélites a prouvé que ces Juifs avaient été tués du vivant du Caïd Ali-el-Demnat, père de l'Amel actuel de Demnat.

La solution de cette affaire a eu lieu depuis longtemps. C'est une question tranchée ! Nous leur avons demandé ensuite de faire connaître ce qu'ils réclamaient de l'Amel actuel de Demnat en fait de biens meubles et immeubles : ils ont répondu qu'ils réclamaient 21,000 rials qui leur auraient été pris sous l'administration de l'Amel actuel. Nous leur avons alors demandé un détail et l'explication de leur affirmation afin que nous puissions soumettre ces abus administratifs à une enquête, afin de procéder à un règlement équitable au cas où cette affirmation serait vraie, et afin de l'éliminer dans le cas où elle ne serait pas

conforme à la vérité. Mais il ont répondu qu'ils vous avaient confié les pièces de toute cette affaire à Tanger avec tout le détail.

Ils ont juré en vous prenant à témoin que cette somme de 21,000 rials était exacte et qu'ils n'avaient pas conservé copie des pièces susdites. Sa Majesté nous a alors invité de vous écrire pour vous informer de cela et vous prier de nous envoyer les documents susdits, afin qu'ils soient soumis à l'examen dont nous avons parlé plus haut.

Quant à la question des meurtres, il a été prouvé qu'un Juif avait été tué dans la circonscription de l'Amel actuel de Demnat. Nous veillerons à ce qu'il soit payé une indemnité pour ce meurtre. Soyez assuré, d'ailleurs, que nous veillerons à ce qu'il en soit ainsi.

(Signé) MOHAMMED EL MOUFADDAL BEN
MOHAMMED GARNIT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 14.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Cid Emfadi Garnit.

(Traduction.)
(Après compliments.)

21 Rabia II, 1303 (25 Janvier, 1886).
J'AI reçu la lettre que vous m'avez adressée dans les premiers jours de Rebi-el-Teni 1303, et je vous remercie des dispositions que Sa Majesté a bien voulu prendre afin d'assurer la tranquillité à venir des Israélites de Demnat et de mettre un terme aux sévices dont ils sont à tout propos victimes.

Cependant je crois de mon devoir de vous faire observer que ces gens persistent à se plaindre et prétendent que sous l'administration du Caïd Hamida-el-Munebbi ils ne sont pas plus heureux que par le passé et demeurent exposés à la malveillance du Caïd Hadjé Djélali, dont l'influence néfaste continue à s'exercer à leur détriment d'une manière indirecte.

Je ne dois pas vous laisser ignorer non plus l'émotion des Comités Israélites en Europe en présence de cet état de choses et leur intention, dans le cas où justice ne serait pas rendue à leurs coreligionnaires, de faire un appel sérieux aux trois Gouvernements d'Angleterre, de France, et d'Italie pour obtenir leur intervention énergique en faveur de ces malheureux.

Vous trouverez, d'ailleurs, ci-joint, les pièces relatives à la réclamation de 21,000 rials présentée et affirmée sous serment par les Juifs de Demnat. Prenez-en, je vous prie, connaissance et nous ne doutons pas que Sa Majesté adoptera des mesures de nature à donner une satisfaction réelle à l'opinion publique Européenne, et aussi à la justice, en accordant les indemnités réclamées et en manifestant d'une manière énergique et catégorique sa volonté, de manière que les sujets Israélites de Sa Majesté soient traités non pas en "parias" mais comme tous les autres sujets Marocains.

(Signé) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 15.

Viscount Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 69.)

My Lord, Paris, February 5, 1886.
I HAD yesterday the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 65 of the 2nd instant, instructing me to bring to the notice of the French Government a claim advanced by Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar, of Malta, for compensation for losses alleged to have been sustained by them in June 1881, when Gabes, in the Regency of Tunis, was occupied by French troops.

I inclose a copy of a note which I have in consequence addressed to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 15.

Viscount Lyons to M. de Freycinet.

M. le Président du Conseil,

Paris, February 5, 1886.

MESSRS. SCICLUNA and Tajar, of Malta, have addressed a Petition to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, setting forth a claim for compensation from the French Government on account of losses which they state themselves to have sustained in consequence of the destruction by fire, in June 1881, when Gabes was occupied by French troops, of certain magazines containing supplies of esparto grass and presses of which they were the owners.

It appears that a Commission was duly appointed by the French military authorities to assess the damages suffered by Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar at Gabes; that this Commission met on the 10th April, 1883, and that, after witnesses had been heard, and the case examined, the claims were allowed, with a reduction.

It seems, however, that the award of the Commission was disallowed by the Ministry of War at Paris, that another Commission was ordered to sit on the 27th August following, and that this second Commission reduced the original award of 5,000 fr. to a nominal sum.

Some correspondence on the subject of submitting the claim to arbitration took place between the French Residency and the British Consulate-General at Tunis in the years 1884 and 1885; and in a letter dated the 30th March, 1885, the state of the case is thus described by the French Resident, M. Cambon:—

"Il y a, en ce qui concerne cet arbitrage, une confusion et un malentendu que je ne saurais m'expliquer. Pour moi, il résulte clairement du dossier que la réclamation Scicluna avait été évoquée devant la Commission chargée de statuer sur les demandes en indemnité qui avaient été formulées à raison de l'occupation de Gabes par nos troupes, que M. Léopoldo Avvocato, alors mandataire des Sieurs Scicluna, avait, malgré plusieurs mises en demeure, refusé de produire les pièces justificatives nécessaires pour apprécier le montant des pertes subies par son client, et que, informé de ce refus, M. le Ministre de la Guerre a décidé qu'il y avait lieu d'attendre la production des preuves réclamées."

Her Majesty's Government are assured that Messrs. Scicluna have now in hand proofs regarding their losses, and are able to produce witnesses, as also an exact account of the esparto, &c., possessed by them at Gabes, made up from the note-books and papers of their agent, and other documents.

There appears, in fact, to have been a misunderstanding with regard to the settlement of the claim by arbitration, owing to which it was not submitted for the decision of Sir A. Dingli and M. de Blignières when those gentlemen met at Tunis to investigate and decide upon outstanding British claims.

Under these circumstances, and as Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar now declare that they are prepared to produce witnesses and documentary evidence in support of their demand, Her Majesty's Government have instructed me to bring the case to your Excellency's notice, to recommend it to the favourable consideration of the Government of the Republic, and to ask that instructions may be sent to the French Representatives at Tunis to take steps for the settlement of the claim by arbitration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 16.

The Earl of Rosebery to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 81.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 13, 1886.

I HAVE to convey to your Excellency my approval of the note which you have addressed to the French Government upon the subject of the Scicluna-Tajar claim, copy of which was inclosed in your despatch No. 69 of the 5th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 17.

*Sir J. Pauncefote to Sir Julian Goldsmid, M.P. (Anglo-Jewish Association).**

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 13, 1886.

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 8th ultimo, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to transmit to you herewith copy of a further despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, having reference to recent outrages upon Jews in Morocco.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 18.

Mr. Löwy to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 15.)

Anglo-Jewish Association, 100, Sutherland Gardens,
London, February 15, 1886.

My Lord,

I AM directed to acknowledge most gratefully the receipt of the copies of the despatch which Sir John Drummond Hay, in concert with other Representatives of foreign Powers, has so humanely and energetically addressed to the Government of the Sultan of Morocco, with reference to the outrages committed by the authorities under whose jurisdiction the Jews of Demnat are placed.

The documents intended for the London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews have been duly forwarded to the office of that Board.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. LÖWY, Secretary.

No. 19.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 4.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 22, 1886.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 37 of the 4th May of last year, I transmit to you herewith, for inquiry and report, extracts from the "Globe" newspaper relative to the state of the prisons in Morocco.‡

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 20.

Mr. Cohen to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 23.)

London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews,
2, Paper Buildings, Temple, February 22, 1886.

My Lord,

ON behalf of this Board, I have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your Lordship's letter, inclosing copies of despatches addressed to your Lordship by Sir John Drummond Hay, Her Britannic Majesty's Minister at Tangier, relative to the Jews of Demnat, and I am directed to convey to your Lordship the warm thanks of the Board for the continued solicitude evinced by Her Majesty's Government on behalf of the oppressed Jews of Demnat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AARON COHEN, President.

* Also to Mr. Arthur Cohen (London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews).
† No. 14.
‡ "Globe," January 25, 26, and 27.

Question asked in the House of Commons, February 23, 1886.

Mr. William Corbet.—To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he has seen the statements in the "Globe" of the 25th, 26th, and 27th January relative to the shocking state of the prisons in Morocco, and the cruelties inflicted on the prisoners,

And whether he will inquire into the allegations, and, if they turn out to be well founded, whether he will cause representations to be made with a view to mitigating the sufferings of the unfortunate prisoners.

Answer.

The statements referred to by the Honourable Member have been already forwarded to Her Majesty's Minister in Morocco for inquiry and report.

Her Majesty's Government have not received any very recent reports respecting the state of the prisons in Morocco, but in March of last year Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier addressed a strong representation to the Moorish Government on the subject, and at his suggestion the Representatives of France, Germany, and Italy took a similar step. The Sultan, in consequence of these representations, issued an Edict directing reforms. It is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to continue to press the matter on the attention of the Moorish Government.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 8.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 6, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 4 of the 22nd ultimo, transmitting extracts from the "Globe" newspaper,* relative to the state of prisons in Morocco.

This account is, as far as I can ascertain, founded on facts, though the treatment and sufferings of the prisoners are somewhat exaggerated.

In my despatch No. 20 of the 18th March of last year I reported as directed upon the prisons in this country, and I transmitted a translation of a letter I had addressed the Moorish Government upon this subject, and in No. 37 of the 4th May I inclosed the Vizier's reply, together with a translation of the Edict which had been issued by the Sultan to Governors ordaining the better treatment of prisoners.

I am not in possession of any further information regarding the prisons than that I reported in the above-mentioned despatches, but I will write again to the Consular officers and request them to inform me whether the Governors at the ports have attended to the Sultan's orders.

When I receive their replies I will make a further representation to this Government, though I will not conceal from your Lordship that I do not expect any beneficial result so long as the present form of administration continues. No officer is paid except the Administrators of Customs, and therefore, when any reform is proposed which entails expenditure, no one is found disposed to carry it honestly into execution.

I obtained orders from the Sultan some years ago that bread should be given to the poorer class of prisoners in the Tangier prison; the officer in charge has frequently attempted to reduce the quality and quantity ordered to be distributed. In pursuance of my orders, one of the Gawasses of the Legation visits the prisons occasionally, and his supervision becomes a constant source of vexatious questions with the local authorities.

With regard to the article in the "Globe" of the 27th January, in which it is stated that Moorish subjects are imprisoned on account of the fraudulent claims of British or other foreign subjects, and of natives under protection, I regret to inform your Lordship that there is much truth in this statement. Commissioners were sent to Tangier three years ago to inquire into and settle the claims of foreign subjects. Neither the claimants nor the debtors were required by the Commissioners to appear

* January 25, 26, and 27, 1886. (Not printed.)

before them, but the foreign Representatives were requested to present the notarial documents of creditors drawn up according to Mahomedan law, and the Commissioners, on their presentation, issued orders for the arrest and imprisonment by the Governors in the interior of those debtors who did not or could not pay.

There have been cases of cruel injustice practised, which have been brought to my knowledge both on account of the claims of British as well as of other foreign subjects.

With the view of checking this evil as far as the claims of British subjects are concerned, I addressed a letter to the Vizier, Cid Emfadl Garnit, requesting him to submit to the Sultan certain Regulations I had to propose regarding the future mode of procedure for the settlement of the claims of British subjects. With the view of checking further cases of injustice before I could receive a reply from the Court, I addressed a Circular letter to the Consular officers, of which I have the honour to transmit a copy, in which is embodied the note I addressed to the Vizier, and therefore I do not transmit to your Lordship a translation of the letter. I learn privately from the Court that the Sultan has approved these Regulations. I expect that some of the British creditors may complain that I do not continue to insist that this Government should adopt summary proceedings to recover the amounts owed to them, as is still effected at the demand of other Representatives on behalf of persons under their protection. The acts of tyranny and injustice which have been practised, debtors dying in prison from privation and fever, have determined me nevertheless to lose no time in putting a stop, as far as British subjects are concerned, to such cruelties being practised to obtain justice, though I am aware that in taking this step I shall expose myself to the charge so often made, that I do not vigorously uphold the rights of British subjects. I feel confident, however, that Her Majesty's Government and public opinion will support my action in this question, even if British claimants are not enabled to obtain from this Government the prompt liquidation of their claims in the same manner as the subjects of other nations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Circular addressed by Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Consular Officers at the Ports of Morocco.

Gentlemen,

Tangier, February 16, 1886.

THE claims of British creditors upon Moorish subjects dwelling in districts of the interior have been a constant source of vexatious correspondence for several years with this Government.

The greater number of these claims originated, as you are aware, from the distress suffered by the peasantry engaged in agricultural pursuits during successive years of drought and famine, and that many of the unfortunate Arabs who had obtained loans, or had bound themselves to deliver grain or other produce to foreign subjects at a fixed period, were unable to fulfil their engagements, and that when threatened with prosecution they had given their assent to the preparation of documents drawn up by Moorish notaries, in which the sums they owed were doubled, or otherwise raised to an usurious amount. When the claims of British and other foreign subjects were pressed upon the notice of this Government, the latter appointed Commissioners to investigate them, and directions were given to the Governors of districts where the debtors resided to arrest and send the debtors prisoners to the dungeons at the Moorish capital or other places, and to confiscate their property. Many of these prisoners, after suffering most cruel hardships, have died from disease or starvation, for their families having lost all their property, through confiscation, have not had the means of providing for the subsistence of their imprisoned relatives.

Cases of a most distressing character have frequently been brought under my notice, and I have, therefore, decided upon endeavouring to come to an understanding with this Government as to the procedure for the future in cases of debtors, which I trust may prevent a repetition of the cruelties which have been hitherto perpetrated. A number of claims have been settled through the Commissioners who were sent to Tangier, many have been rejected, and a number remain without settlement. The Commissioners have been withdrawn, and I have not thought it advisable to seek for the appointment of other Commissioners, as their mode of procedure in these claims led to the tyrannical acts I have described, and to the payment of some claims of an unjust or usurious character.

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I have addressed a note to the Vizier for Foreign Affairs, Cid Emfadr Garnit, which I have requested should be submitted for the consideration of His Shereefian Majesty, making known that I have transmitted to the Consular officers at the ports the notarial documents ("ersoom") which are in my possession, regarding the moneys owed to persons under British protection, and I copy for your information and guidance a translation of the propositions I have put forward:—

"1. That all debtors to British subjects be required to appear before the Governor and Consular officer at the port whereat the creditors reside.

"2. That notarial documents ("ersoom") regarding debts be examined by the Governor and Consular officer, with the view of ascertaining whether they are drawn up according to the Shraa (Moorish Law), and that the claims are not of an usurious or otherwise unjust character.

"3. That when a claim is found to be just, the debtor be required to pay at once, but if he has not ready money, and it is proved he is in possession of property, that he be detained in prison until the Governor of the district where he resides sells such part of his property as may suffice to cover the debt, and that the proceeds be remitted to the Governor of the port for delivery to the creditor.

"4. That should the debtor declare he is bankrupt, he be required to produce satisfactory proofs, and that after being sworn according to the Shraa, he be set at liberty.

"5. That if a debtor dies, and it is proved that there are persons who have inherited property from him, they be called upon to liquidate the debt.

"6. If the family of the deceased debtor have not inherited any property, that they be not arrested or molested.

"7. That if a debtor attempts to act in a fraudulent manner, by concealing property and declaring himself bankrupt, he be imprisoned, and his property sold for the benefit of the creditor.

"8. That any Governor who connives in assisting a debtor to evade payment or to conceal his property be punished by His Shereefian Majesty, and be compelled to pay the creditor the money that is claimed.

"9. That all debtors of persons under British protection who may at present be confined in prisons in the interior be sent to the ports where the creditors reside, in order that the claims against them be adjudicated upon in accordance with the foregoing Regulations.

"10. That all claims of which the evidence is not supported by 'ersoom' and documents of Shraa, but solely by letters and notes of hand or other papers, be arranged by a Tribunal of merchants selected by the Governor and Consul.

"With the view of carrying into execution this mode of procedure as regards debtors, I have to request that Shereefian Edicts of a peremptory character be issued to the Governors at the ports to aid Consular officers in bringing about a prompt and final settlement of all pending claims. As I am unable to obtain precise information regarding the names of the Governors where the debtors reside, I send instructions to the Vice-Consuls to procure this information from the creditors, and to communicate it to the Governors at their respective ports, so that the latter may address His Shereefian Majesty in order to obtain the necessary orders to be dispatched to the Governors of the districts under whose jurisdiction the debtors may be.

"I have further to request that the orders which may be sent by His Shereefian Majesty be of such a character as may check the disposition of Governors to evade their execution, and that they be deterred from attempting, as too frequently happens, to confiscate the property of a debtor before sending him for trial, or after accepting presents, pretend that he has escaped or cannot be found."

I trust that the Sultan will approve of the propositions I have made, and that His Shereefian Majesty will send the requisite orders to the Governors at the ports and interior. In such case you will be careful to act up to the spirit of the proposed Regulations in concert with the Governors at your respective residences.

The "ersoom" which are still in my possession will be transmitted to the Consular officers. When a claim is settled, you will require that the creditor, before the money is delivered, sign his name upon the notarial document, which will then be given up to the Governor, and the creditor will have to deliver to you also a receipt declaring that the money has been paid by the debtor.

When a British subject presents a claim against a Moorish subject, the Consular officer will require that he exhibit the "ersoom," or notarial document, upon which the claim is founded.

This document will be then presented to the Governor of the town by the Consular officer, with the request that he take steps to summon the debtors.

In all cases where claims are proved to be irregular or unjust, you will cause the "ersoom," or notarial document, to be cancelled or destroyed. This will have to be done in concert with the Governor.

You will be careful to carry out this latter instruction, as it has come to my knowledge that "ersoom" have been retained or recovered by creditors, who have again presented them, claiming payment for moneys which had already been paid.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 23.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 5.)
Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 8 of the 6th instant, and have to convey to you my approval of your action in the matter of the treatment of native prisoners in Morocco, as well as in that of the enforcement of the claims of British subjects upon Moorish subjects.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 24.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 9.)
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 6 of the 13th January, respecting the step I had taken, in concert with the French and Italian Representatives, regarding the Jews of Demnat, I have the honour to transmit the translation of a letter addressed to me by the Vizier, Cid Emfadr Garnit, and of my reply.

The French and Italian Ministers had received similar communications from the Vizier, and their replies are identic with mine.

I further transmit a translation of an identic letter from, and of the reply we have addressed to, Rabbi Amar.

The preposterous claims put forward by the Jews, on their return to Demnat, on account of the alleged robbery of money and jewels, gave a good excuse to this Government for objecting to come to a settlement which, we had been given to understand, would otherwise have been effected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 24.

The Vizier Cid Emfadr Garnit to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(Traduction.)

(Après les compliments d'usage.)

20 Rebi-el-Teni, 1303 (January 26, 1886).
NOUS avons invité David Amar et son groupe à produire les preuves concernant les biens immeubles et meubles qu'ils réclament à l'Amel de Demnat. Ils nous ont répondu qu'ils lui réclamaient 21,000 rials* qu'ils auraient perdu du fait de son administration! Nous leur avons demandé alors la démonstration de ces malversations d'une manière détaillée afin que nous puissions constater celles dont on devait tenir compte en raison de leur authenticité et celles qu'il faudrait écarter au cas où elles ne seraient pas réelles; ils nous ont répondu qu'ils vous avaient remis à Tanger la note détaillée de tout cela et ont juré par votre nom et par ce qu'ils vénèrent que c'était bien réellement une somme de 21,000 rials; ils ont ajouté qu'ils n'avaient pas sur eux de copie de cette note et rien à dire de plus que ce qu'ils avaient déjà dit au sujet de cette somme susdite. Et lorsque nous les avons interrogés en leur demandant des éclaircissements relativement à leurs réclamations au sujet des vingt et un de leurs coreligionnaires qui auraient été pillés à la porte de Demnat à leur retour d'auprès de Sa Majesté, ils ont répondu que dix-neuf de

* Dollars.

ceux-là étaient absents, et à Demnat, que dix seulement étaient ici près d'eux. Nous avons alors demandé à ces dix présents d'indiquer précisément ce qui leur avait été volé, et ils ont répondu environ 8,000 rials et un grand nombre de mouchoirs de soie, de kafbans, de burnous et de pierres précieuses, ainsi que des vêtements de toute sorte, et tout cela en conformité des témoignages délivrés par leurs notaires et envoyés d'ailleurs par l'entremise du Gouvernement du Sultan, en traduction, à Si Torrès. Ils ont ajouté que les dix-neuf autres d'entre eux qui se trouvaient à Demnat avaient perdu encore davantage du fait du pillage dont ils avaient été victimes, et qu'en un mot ce qu'ils réclamaient des Musulmans emprisonnés s'élevait à environ 30,000 rials en sus des 21,000 rials qu'ils réclamaient à l'Amel de Demnat. Nous leur avons demandé ensuite d'indiquer ceux d'entre eux qui auraient été tués et ils ont indiqué les quatre déjà nommés dans la note envoyée à Seïd el Hadj Torrès. Or, de l'enquête faite, il résulte qu'un seul de ces quatre est mort, c'est le quatrième nommé dans la note ci-dessus mentionnée, et en ce qui regarde celui-là, l'Amel de Demnat s'est arrangé avec la famille qui s'est désistée de toute demande, et cela a été notifié à Si Torrès à qui l'on a envoyé copie de l'acte de désistement. Enfin il a été prouvé que les réclamations des Juifs susdits étaient basées sur la fausseté la plus caractérisée, attendu que tous les Juifs de Demnat réunis, non seulement ne possèdent pas le montant réclamé, mais bien loin de là, attendu que tous sont des ouvriers gagne-petit, tels que maçons, petits orfèvres, forgerons. C'est d'ailleurs ce qu'ont témoigné eux-mêmes les Juifs de Maroc, qui les connaissent très bien et sont en relations avec eux, et qui ont déclaré qu'ils n'avaient pas été pillés. Leur témoignage a été envoyé à Si Torrès en traduction. Et en admettant même que ces Juifs réclamants soient riches, comment pourrait-on admettre qu'ils aient avec eux tant de valeurs lorsqu'ils se sont mis en route pour Fez avec l'intention de porter plainte à Sa Majesté et aussi qu'ils aient emprunté 200 rials à Yakoub ben Saïd de Dar el Beida pour parer à leurs besoins journaliers, et qu'ils n'aient aucun titre à produire à l'appui de ce qu'ils réclament aux Musulmans dont ils ont demandé l'emprisonnement au Sultan. Sa Majesté a donc ordonné de mettre ces Musulmans en liberté sous caution en attendant qu'ils soient jugés par les Tribunaux du Chérâ quant à ces réclamations; et le Sultan me prie de vous faire savoir tout cela, en vous priant de prendre en considération ce que dessus, d'où il ressort que David Amar et son groupe ont faussé la vérité.

(Signé) MOHAMMED MOFADDAL BEN MOHAMMED GARNIT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 24.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Vizier Cid Emfadl Garnit.

(Traduction.)

(Après les compliments d'usage.)

Le 18 Mars, 1886,

J'AI pris connaissance des observations contenues dans votre lettre relative aux Juifs de Demnat. Je qualifie avec vous d'exagérés les vols dont ils prétendent avoir été victimes, quand, revenant de la Cour de Fez, ils sont rentrés à Demnat. Mais je connais trop bien l'esprit de justice dont Sa Majesté est animée à l'égard de tous les sujets de son Empire, sans distinction, pour admettre un seul instant qu'elle écarte sans autre forme de procès, les réclamations motivées par les extorsions dont le Gouverneur de Demnat s'est rendu coupable vis-à-vis de ses administrés Israélites avant la première démarche de ceux-ci et à Tanger et à Fez.

D'accord avec mes collègues de France et d'Italie, j'ai déferé au désir du Sultan, et réclame des Juifs de Demnat la prestation de serment afin d'établir d'une manière véridique les dommages qu'ils avaient subis.

J'ai pleine confiance dans les promesses solennelles que m'a faites Sa Majesté à la suite de la lettre identique des trois Représentants et de la démarche personnelle de M. le Ministre de France auprès d'elle lors de son séjour à la Cour Chérifienne. J'en ai d'ailleurs fait part à mon Gouvernement, dont la surprise serait grande assurément, si aucune mesure bienveillante n'était prise par Sa Majesté.

Malgré les déclarations contenues dans votre lettre, j'attends donc tout de la magnanimité de Sa Majesté. Elle voudra bien, je l'espère, désigner des Commissaires dégagés de tout parti pris, indépendants du Gouverneur de Demnat, en un mot, complètement désintéressés, et les charger du règlement équitable de cette malheureuse question.

De notre côté, mes collègues et moi adressons une lettre identique à "David Amar" pour lui manifester notre mécontentement au sujet des demandes exagérées présentées par ses coreligionnaires, l'inviter à se conformer à la vérité stricte, et à s'entendre avec

les Commissaires de Sa Majesté pour terminer cette affaire que nous avons à cœur d'oublier.

(Signé) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 24.

Identic Letter addressed by Rabbi David Amar to the British, French, and Italian Ministers.

(Translation.)

7 Adar I, 5646 (February 13, 1886).
AFTER saluting you in a becoming manner, we have to inform you that we are in a very bad position with the Governor, Sid Hadj Gilany. We were in the City of Morocco two months and a-half, and every day we went to the Court for our money, regarding which we took oath at Tangier, and also for that which was stolen from us at the gates of Demnat, and for the persons that died. Cidi Feddal Garnit (who is the Minister who attends to European questions) answered by requiring us to give him another note of our claims and to take oath a second time. This request was no more than an excuse, so we answered that we had already handed our note to the Ministers at Tangier, and sworn to it; on which reply he was silent. With regard to what they took away from us at the gates of Demnat, he answered us that we should make a note of what they had taken from us. Those who were with me at Morocco handed over their note, and those who remained at Demnat we mentioned who they are until they present themselves. And he told us at the same time that the Moors who had robbed us were in prison, and would not be set free till they had paid us for what they had stolen from us. Then we returned to Demnat.

But it occurred that the Governor, Hadj Gilany, went to Morocco and set the prisoners at liberty, without paying anything, nor even a fine for what they had done, and brought them with him to Demnat.

I have also to inform your Excellency that the Sultan had deprived Hadj Gilany of jurisdiction over the Jews of Demnat and those of Elcama, and had put us under the Governor Kaid Hamida-el-Munehbi; but when Hadj Gilany returned from Morocco, he brought with him an order from the Sultan to govern all the Jews of Elcama in future, and when the Jews of Elcama received news of this the greater part of them fled, and left their families and properties abandoned, because they knew perfectly well that, being under Hadj Gilany, he will rob them and treat them very badly. We fear that, as Hadj Gilany gave money and took over those Hebrews again under his jurisdiction, he may do the same to us.

Up to the present we have obtained nothing from the Court, neither the money which we took oath about at Tangier nor that which they robbed us of at the gates of Demnat, nor compensation for those of us whom they killed; and our property which we have in the hands of the Moors they have consumed, leaving us ruined, and we are very badly off in every respect, even the tradesmen. The Moors are commanded neither to sell to nor to buy from us.

The Moors who were in prison, seeing that they escaped without paying for what they stole from us, nor any fine, swear that they will kill us. If we were not maintaining our claims above mentioned we should leave Demnat, and go to live in another place.

Now, by the grace of God and by the love of you and your family, we beg of you to take steps to liberate us from these troubles, as we do not foresee a satisfactory ending. We have further to inform your Excellency that we have heard that the Jews, friends of Hadj Gilany, Mordecai Benquesso, Hadan Draï, and Mimon-ben-Sibbu, have given false testimony, saying that nothing had been stolen from us at the gates of Demnat. They were not present, and did not see what happened to us there, and only wished to favour the Government in order to injure our claims, as they saw that our question and claims depend on God and the Representatives. We hope that, as you promised us on the day of our meeting, you will defend us to the last, and until we obtain our just demands, which you will continue to support until they are conceded.

We have no one to take our defence but God and your Excellencies. We are persuaded that your Excellency will continue to work in our favour, and may God reward you by much good health and honour, and preserve you through many happy years; and we beseech you to continue to succour us until we are delivered from these troubles.

Your, &c.
(Signed) DAVID AMAR.

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Inclosure 4 in No. 24.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Rabbi Amar of Demnat.

March 17, 1886.

(Translation.)

I HAVE received your letter of 7 Adar I, in which you complain that His Shereefian Majesty the Sultan has not done justice either to your claims or to those of your co-religionists respecting the injustices committed by Kaid Gilani; that you had requested His Majesty to grant you compensation for the damages which you and your companions had declared under oath you had suffered from the extortions of the said Governor, and for the robbery which had been perpetrated on you at the gates of Demnat on your return from the Court, and for the effusion of the blood of your co-religionists, but that the Sultan has taken no notice of your request.

You state that the Minister Garnit has asked you for a note of the sums claimed by you, and that you will have to take your oath anew, and that you replied to him that you had already produced the required note to the Representatives at Tangier, and that you had already taken your oath to the fidelity of the same, but that Cid Garnit insisted on getting a fresh note, which you delivered to him, and that you were told that the culprits were in prison, and would not be released until they had paid, and that you then returned to Demnat. You say that Kaid Gilani was the bearer of a Royal Order to take under his jurisdiction the Jews who had taken no part in the delegation of Jews that accompanied you to Tangier, and that you and your companions fear that a like fate will befall you; that Kaid Gilani has given orders to the Mussulmans to abstain from having any business transaction with the Jews, and that the Moors who had been imprisoned, and are now at liberty, are threatening you with death; and finally, that the three Jews, Haddan Ederi, Mimen Bensibo, and Mordejay Benkesso, who are friends of the Kaid, had declared in Morocco that nothing had been robbed from you at the gates of Demnat, whereas they were not eye-witnesses, and knew nothing, but that they made that declaration merely to injure you, and with the view of pleasing the Kaid Gilani.

The Jews of Demnat, and especially those who came to Tangier in your company to implore the protection of the Representatives of France and Italy, and mine, are aware of the great interest with which we have supported their claims at the Moorish Court, and that it was owing to our interference that the Sultan issued an Edict in behalf of your co-religionists of Demnat, and that, subsequently, you were removed from the jurisdiction of Kaid Gilani and placed under that of a more benign and just Governor; and finally, it was due to our intercession and the visit of the French Minister to the Court, that His Shereefian Majesty promised to cause justice to be done to you, which promise was made to the French Minister, in the name of the Sultan, by the Minister Garnit, in the presence of the Jewish Elders at Fez, and of the chief Rabbi.

Until then things continued favourably, for the culprits had been imprisoned, and the justice of the Sovereign showed itself severe. Who, then, can have impeded it in its course?

In your letter you blame the Governor Gilany for the change, and you abstain from bringing forward your claims, and those of your companions, for the robbery committed at the gates of Demnat, which amounts to 30,000*l.* in jewellery, specie, silk handkerchiefs, and other articles, exclusive of the sum which you had claimed for damages suffered by the Jewish community at Demnat.

When claims of this nature are put forward, it is necessary that they should be based on documentary evidence which may prove that you were really in possession of the articles claimed; but it is proved that you and the other Jews had to borrow 200 dollars from a Jew at Casablanca named Jacob Bensaid, to provide for your daily maintenance. It is owing to your excessive and unjustifiable pretensions that His Shereefian Majesty has been displeased, and is persuaded that your claims, and those of your companions, were unfounded; and His Majesty has, consequently, desisted from taking any further notice of them. You have, therefore, to blame your concupiscence, and that of your co-religionists, and no other, for this result.

It appears that there is no truth in your statement that the four individuals mentioned by you had died through ill-treatment, only one having perished, the rest having recovered.

You have attempted to take advantage of our protection in order to enrich yourselves at the cost of the Moorish Government, but neither I nor my colleagues will consent that such abuses be committed. However, through sentiments of humanity, I shall, in concert with my colleagues of France and Italy, suggest that the Sultan should send impartial Commissioners to Demnat to examine conscientiously your claims for indemnity, and we

urge you to desist from all unjustifiable pretensions, and to come to a settlement with these Commissioners, for we shall never approve preposterous pretensions.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 25.

Consul-General Playfair to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 2, 2 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Algiers, April 2, 1886, 8.30 A.M.

SERIOUS revolt has taken place on Morocco frontier. The Governor [name undecypherable] has taken refuge with families in Algeria. Troops sent to the French frontier.

No. 26.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 6.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 3, 1886.

I HAVE to state that your proceedings in the case of the Jews of Demnat, as reported in your despatch No. 9 of the 23rd ultimo, are approved.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 27.

Viscount Lyons to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 6.)

(No. 151.)

My Lord,

Paris, April 5, 1886.

I RECEIVED last evening a despatch, under flying seal, addressed to your Lordship by Mr. Consul-General Playfair, dated the 2nd instant, and marked "Political, No. 1."

It records the telegram in cypher of the same date in which the Consul-General informed your Lordship that a serious revolt had taken place on the Morocco frontier.

It then goes on to say that the facts of the case, so far as they have transpired, are as follows:—

"The Maia tribe has attacked the Amgado of Ouchda and the Amil, or Governor, Si Abd-el-Melek, has taken refuge, with his whole family, at Lalla Maghina, in French territory, and has demanded French protection. Reinforcements of artillery, cavalry, and infantry have been sent from Oran and Tlemcen to the frontier."

The despatch adds that:—

"Si Abd-el-Melek is the person who went last year to Paris as Ambassador from Morocco, accompanied by M. Féraud."

I took an opportunity this morning of mentioning the matter to M. de Freycinet.

He said that he had seen in the newspapers statements respecting the alleged revolt on the Morocco frontier of Algeria, but that he had no authentic information. He had received recent intelligence from M. Féraud, the French Minister in Morocco, but it contained no mention of the revolt. As for the dispatch of French troops to the frontier, he supposed that nothing more had taken place than some of the usual movements of troops which were so often necessary in the Algerian districts in the neighbourhood of Morocco.

The Paris newspapers publish an ordinary telegram, dated Madrid, the 3rd April, stating that letters from Madrid affirm that uneasiness is felt by the inhabitants of the ports in Morocco in consequence of the departure for the southern provinces of the Sultan, who is said to have gone to the assistance of the army of 11,000 men, which is commanded by his eldest son, and is alleged to be in a critical situation.

I will forward the Consul-General's original despatch to your Lordship by the messenger to-morrow.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

Consul-General Playfair to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 1.)

My Lord,

Algiers, April 2, 1886.

I HAVE this day sent the following cypher telegram to your Lordship:—

"Serious revolt has taken place on Morocco frontier."

"Governor of Ouchda has taken refuge with family in Algeria. Troops sent to the French frontier."

The facts of the case, as far as they have transpired, are as follows:—

The Maïa tribe has attacked the Amgads of Ouchda, and the Amel, or Governor, Si Abd-el-Melek, has taken refuge with his whole family at Lalla Maghiua, in French territory, and has demanded French protection.

Reinforcements of artillery, cavalry, and infantry have been sent from Oran and Tlemcen to the frontier.

Si Abd-el-Melek is the person who went last year to Paris as Ambassador from Morocco, accompanied by M. Féraud.

The question naturally occurs, is this the beginning of the long talked of "rectification" of the frontier?

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 37.)

My Lord,

Madrid, April 4, 1886.

SEÑOR MORET, the Spanish Minister of State, informed me yesterday that he had received intelligence of a very disquieting nature from his Agent at Oran respecting the unsatisfactory state of affairs in Morocco.

Señor Moret stated that the son of the Emperor of Morocco had been sent with a force of 10,000 men to the south of the Empire, where a rebellion had broken out, and that in consequence of his (the Sultan's son) finding himself in difficulties, the Emperor had quitted his capital and gone to Mogador, in order to afford him assistance.

Señor Moret likewise stated that disturbances had taken place in the north-eastern portion of the Empire of Morocco, in the vicinity of the French Algerian frontier, and that he had reason to believe that a large French force was being collected at Tlemcen, with a view to undertaking active operations.

What the result of such operations might be, Señor Moret said he could not predict, but he had brought the subject to the notice of Señor Albareda, the Spanish Ambassador at Paris, who had been instructed to make inquiries of the French Government on the matter; and that Señor Albareda had been informed by the French Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in reply to his inquiries, that the French Government were not in possession of any particulars on the subject.

This answer Señor Moret considered as highly unsatisfactory, if not evasive.

He said he should view with great concern any circumstances which might tend to threaten the stability of the Sultan's throne, and that he believed that the true policy for England and Spain to pursue in Morocco was to preserve by all means the maintenance of the *status quo* at present existing in that Empire, but that he suspected the present disturbances might be fomented by French intrigues actuated by ambitious projects, and might result in the French Government seeking to extend their frontier in the direction of the Mulaya, which the Spanish Government could not view with indifference.

Señor Moret appeared to attach great importance to the subject, and I promised to report to your Lordship his observations with respect to it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Viscount Lyons to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 153.)

My Lord,

Paris, April 6, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying despatch, which I have received under flying seal from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Algiers, relative to a revolt stated to have broken out in Morocco on the Algerian frontier.*

Extracts from this despatch were embodied in my despatch to your Lordship No. 151 of yesterday.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 17.)

My Lord,

Tunis, April 5, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to report the departure to-day, in order to take up his appointment as Procureur of the Republic at Pau, of M. Boerner, who has acted in the same capacity in Tunis since the institution of the French Courts in this Regency. The President of the Court of First Instance came to Tunis about the same time as M. Boerner, and he too has recently received another appointment. Both these gentlemen distinguished themselves in the exercise of their magisterial functions by their independence, and have won for the French Tribunals a character for justice and impartiality which have gone far to reconcile all classes of Europeans to the suppression of the Consular jurisdictions. On several occasions when British subjects have brought actions against the farmers of taxes for extortionate demands, sentences have been given in their favour, and in an action connected with the Concession of esparto-growing land recently brought by an English firm, the outgoing Procureur in addressing the Court passed severe strictures on the extravagant nature of the delimitation made by an agent of the Government.

It is no secret that the independent spirit thus displayed by the French judicial authorities gave umbrage to the Resident-General, who gave them to understand that political considerations should not be lost sight of in the discharge of their duties. As they resented this interference, both these magistrates begged to be relieved of their functions, and they have been transferred to other posts in France.

The new President of the Court of First Instance is credited with the desire to shape his Judgments more in conformity with the wishes of the Residency, and his conduct, no less than that of the new Procureur, who is shortly expected to arrive, will be watched with great jealousy on the part of the public.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 18.)

My Lord,

Tunis, April 5, 1886.

IN my despatch No. 3 of the 28th January I had the honour to report to your Lordship the arrival of General le Bellin de Dionne, placed in command of the Division of Occupation of Tunis in succession to General Boulanger. Shortly after his arrival he set out on a tour of inspection in the Regency, whence he returned a few days ago.

General de Dionne leaves to-day for France, and it is stated that in his Report to the Ministry of War he recommends that the command should be left in the hands of a General of Brigade, and that 4,000 out of the 9,000 troops now forming the Corps of Occupation should be recalled, the tranquil state of the country not requiring the presence of so large a force.

It will be soon apparent whether effect will be given to these recommendations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

* See No. 28.

(No. 165.)

Viscount Lyons to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 10.)

My Lord,

Paris, April 9, 1886.
 WITH reference to your Lordship's despatches No. 65 of the 2nd February last and No. 81 of the 13th February last, as well as to my despatch No. 69 of the 5th of the same month, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a note which has been addressed to me by M. de Freycinet, in answer to the communication which I made to him, by your Lordship's order, on the subject of the claim of Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar, of Malta, for compensation for losses sustained by them in June 1881, when Gabès, in the Regency of Tunis, was occupied by the French troops.

The note says that it is now for Her Majesty's Consul at Tunis to invite the claimants to put together the documents which they had been called upon to produce; and that these documents, on being submitted to the competent authority, will, I may be assured, be examined in a most friendly spirit.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 33.

M. de Freycinet to Viscount Lyons.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Paris, le 7 Avril, 1886.
 PAR sa lettre du 5 Février dernier, votre Excellence à bien voulu appeler mon attention sur la réclamation fournie par les Sieurs Scicluna et Tajar, de Malte, en raison de pertes qu'ils auraient subies à Gabès, en 1881, à la suite de l'occupation de cette ville par les troupes Françaises.

Il résulte des informations que j'ai recueillies à ce sujet, qu'une Commission composée d'un Sous-Intendant militaire, du Commandant d'Armes, et du Chef du Génie à Gabès, s'est réunie le 27 Aout, 1883, et a conclu qu'il lui était impossible de statuer sur la demande des intéressés, le mandataire de ces derniers n'ayant pas produit les pièces justificatives qui lui étaient réclamées et que les règlements applicables en la matière l'obligeaient à fournir.

Depuis lors des démarches furent faites au nom des Sieurs Scicluna et Tajar, par les Représentants du Gouvernement Britannique en Tunisie à l'effet d'obtenir un nouvel examen de l'affaire; mais cette fois encore aucune des pièces exigées n'a été produite et l'autorité militaire Française, à laquelle il appartient de prononcer dans les affaires de ce genre n'a pu, en conséquence, prendre jusqu'ici aucune décision relativement à la réclamation des Sieurs Tajar et Scicluna.

Votre Excellence jugera sans doute, comme moi, qu'il appartient, dans ces circonstances, au Consul d'Angleterre à Tunis, d'inviter les intéressés à réunir les documents qui leur ont été précédemment demandés.

Ces pièces seront soumises à l'Administration compétente, qui les examinera—votre Excellence peut en être assurée—dans l'esprit le plus bienveillant.

Agréé, &c.
 (Signé) DE FREYCINET.

No. 34.

*Sir Villiers Lister to Sir Julian Goldsmid, M.P. (Anglo-Jewish Association).**

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 10, 1886.
 WITH reference to my letter of the 13th February, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to transmit to you herewith a copy of a further despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, having reference to the case of the Jews of Demnat.†

I am, &c.
 (Signed) T. V. LISTER.

* Also to Mr. Aaron Cchen (London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews).
 † No. 24.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 12.)

(No. 11.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 3, 1886.

M. TESTA informed me yesterday that the German steamer "Gottorp," Captain Litschen, which had been dispatched by a German Association to visit ports in Portugal, Morocco, and the Mediterranean, for commercial and scientific purposes, had on the 25th ultimo, when proceeding from the Canaries to the coast of Morocco, sent a life-boat out, with nine persons in it, amongst whom were two scientific gentlemen, Dr. Jannasch and M. de Hundt, with the intention of landing to explore the coast near Wad Drâa, in Soos.

The boat was upset in the surf, and no assistance could be rendered from on board. Seven persons in European costume were subsequently seen on the shore, and therefore it is concluded that numbers of passengers in the boat had managed to reach the land in safety. The steamer remained for two days in the hope of being able to communicate with the inhabitants and to re-embark the persons who had been saved, but the weather prevented communication, and they saw nothing further of them. M. Testa having consulted with me as to the steps which I thought it might be advisable for him to take with the view of insuring the safety of the German subjects, who, it is supposed, may have been detained by the inhabitants on the coast, I informed M. Testa that this Government had in past years repeatedly given warning that foreign subjects should not attempt to communicate with any part of the coast between Mogador and Wad Drâa, as the Sultan had little or no control over the population of Soos; that some British or Spanish subjects had landed at different times for purposes of trade on that coast, in defiance of the warnings that had been repeatedly given, and had been captured and detained by the Chiefs of Soos, but eventually, through the steps taken on my representations by the Sultan, had been safely brought to Mogador.

I suggested that M. Testa should write to the Vizier Garneet, who it is expected will have arrived about this date at the port of Saffec, accompanying the Sultan on his march to Soos, to request that His Majesty should dispatch a Moorish officer on board the "Gottorp," with letters to the Chiefs of that province, requiring that they deliver up the German subjects who it is supposed are in their hands, and that a Moorish officer should also be sent by His Majesty overland on the same errand.

The "Gottorp" has gone to Gibraltar to obtain an engineer and sailors to replace those who have been lost, and will then proceed to Saffec and the Soos coast.

I have also addressed a letter to the Vizier Garneet, which I have given to M. Testa, urging that the Sultan should do all in his power to secure the safety and rescue of the German subjects.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 36.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 13.)

(No. 12.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 5, 1886.

IN the beginning of the month of June next I shall have attained the age of 70, and therefore, according to the established Regulations, my services as Her Majesty's Minister in Morocco will cease.

As it would be proper that I should give timely notice regarding the date of my withdrawal from this country to the Netherlands and Danish Governments, whom I have represented in this country for upwards of thirty years, and as it would be very convenient for me in many respects if I was allowed to remain on the active list until the end of this quarter, I shall feel much obliged if your Lordship will give me early notice whether your Lordship will sanction my retaining office up to that date, and, in such case, whether I may be authorized to vacate my post by first favourable opportunity a few days before the end of the quarter, and to leave Her Majesty's Consul, Mr. Herbert White, in charge until the arrival of my successor.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 37.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 13.)

(No. 15.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 7, 1886.

THE Sultan arrived at Saffee on the 28th ultimo, and encamped outside the town, with an army composed of 15,000 Askar and about 20,000 irregular cavalry and infantry. His Majesty visited the batteries and custom-house, and gave orders regarding the erection of a fort for heavy guns, and for the completion of the new custom-house.

The Sultan, after remaining three days, left for Mogador, where he is expected to arrive about this date. He will probably remain at that port for four or five days, and then continue his march to the Soos country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 38.

Consul-General Playfair to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 13.)

(No. 2.)

My Lord,

Algiers, April 9, 1886.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 1, dated the 2nd instant, I have the honour to report that the insurrection on the Moroccan frontier, of which I gave an outline, has been fully confirmed.

It appears to have originated in a recent order of the Sultan dividing the tribe of Maïa, or Mehaya, hitherto under the Caïd Bou Bekr, and placing a fraction of it, the Achach, under the authority of a new Chief named Chaïbi.

This greatly displeased the former, who attacked the Achach and drove them towards the French frontier; both Chiefs fell during the encounter.

Abd-el-Melek, the Amel of Ouchda, prepared to pursue the Mehaya, who had placed themselves in an attitude of rebellion to the Sultan, but he himself, at the head of the Angads, was attacked by them and driven into Algeria, which he entered on the 27th March.

An escort of French troops conducted him along this side of the frontier as far as the nearest point to the Moroccan fort of Adjerond on the coast, near the Molonia, where he appears to be at the present moment.

Complete anarchy reigns at Ouchda, the prisons have been broken open, and about 150 people have been killed on both sides. As far as can be learnt, the Angads appear to have the best of it, so far, though their Amel has fled.

A division of French troops, under the command of General Gand, consisting of two battalions of infantry, four squadrons of cavalry, and a battery of artillery, is watching the frontier at Lalla Maghnia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

No. 39.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 16. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 7, 1886.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 11 of the 3rd instant regarding the German steamer "Gottorp," I have the honour to transmit herewith extracts from a private letter of Consul Payton, and also from a private and confidential letter addressed to me by the Italian Minister, M. Scovasso, who has proceeded to Mogador to meet the Sultan on his march to Soos.

There is little doubt that when the master of the "Gottorp" put out the boat off the coast of Soos which was upset in the surf, the intention of the passengers was to land and endeavour to open a trade with the inhabitants.

I do not suppose that the German Government had authorized either the Master of the "Gottorp" or any of the parties on board to commit an infraction of the established Regulations or fiscal laws of Morocco, but the general impression left on the minds of

the public is that the German Government had wished to take steps to establish a factory on the coast, as Mr. McKenzie has done at Cape Juby.

It is unfortunate, as M. Scovasso observes in his confidential letter, that this incident has occurred at a moment when the negotiation for the Convention of Commerce is taking place.

The Sultan, if he is led to believe that the Germans have ambitious projects in his dominions, will be greatly irritated, and will be more reluctant than ever to accede to their and our wishes about the development of trade with Morocco.

Under any circumstances, the adventure of the "Gottorp" has been most inopportune. The inhabitants of Soos, hearing of the march of the Sultan into that country, would never have been disposed at such a moment to allow foreign merchants to land on their coast for purposes of trade, or for other objects, contrary to the repeated orders of His Shereefian Majesty.

The "Gottorp" returned to Tangier from Gibraltar on the 5th instant, and left for Mogador.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 39.

Consul Payton to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(Private.)

(Extract.)

Mogador, March 31, 1886.

I FEEL it my duty to report to you the somewhat eccentric proceedings of the German trading (?) steamer "Gottorp."

She arrived here on or about the 6th March from Lisbon, her cargo being samples of German manufactures, for the purpose, it is said, of extending German trade in distant countries.

She left in about a week, ostensibly for the Canaries, but returned in four days, reporting, some said, that she had not found the Canaries; others that she had not been able to communicate there owing to stormy weather. (French steamer "Verité" was working at the time, as usual, and weather was not stormy.)

It was generally believed here that, instead of going to the Canaries, the "Gottorp" had gone to Agadir and further south.

Leaving here about the 17th or 18th for Rabat, she again made her appearance on the afternoon of the 28th, coming from the south, no bill of health, reporting first, I am told, that it was in the pocket of the doctor, who had gone on shore at Wadnoon to give it to some one there (!), but afterwards that a boat with nine men, which they had sent ashore, had been capsized, and they did not know if the men were drowned or not; having only six men left, could not send a second boat, and that this ineffectual attempt at landing was somewhere between Cape Noon and Cape Juby.

They ultimately produced a Casablanca bill of health, but this and the whole story being considered unsatisfactory, and the authorities here protesting in the name of the Sultan against the landing on his southern territory, the Sanitary Delegate, after consulting the Consular Corps, refused pratique to the "Gottorp," and advised her to proceed to Tangier.

It seems to be rather a general opinion that the passengers of the "Gottorp" are not real commercial men, and that the object of her voyage is rather to extend German territory than German trade.

Inclosure 2 in No. 39.

The Italian Minister to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(Extrait.)

Mogador, le 30 Mars, 1886.

LORSQU'ON s'occupe à faire un Traité avec un Gouvernement comme le Maroc, les exploits comme ceux du "Gottorp" ne sont pas faits pour vaincre les résistances, et pour en faciliter la stipulation. Pourquoi vouloir aller chercher des affaires commerciales dans des provinces d'un Empire ami qui ne sont pas ouvertes au commerce maritime?

Dans quelques jours nous saurons au juste si les pauvres naufragés se sont sauvés tous ou seulement en partie, et l'histoire vraie de ce malheur, car le Capitaine a raconté les choses chaque fois de différente manière, et par conséquent, on ne peut pas connaître exactement ce qui s'est passé.

No. 40.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 7.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 15, 1886.

YOUR despatch No. 11 of the 3rd instant, reporting the loss on the coast of Soos of a boat belonging to the German steamer "Gottorp," and the supposed captivity of some of the crew, has been received, and I have to state that your proceedings in the matter are approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 41.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Consul Sandwith.

(No. 4.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 16, 1886.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 3 of the 2nd February, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to transmit to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, inclosing copy of a note which he has received from M. de Freycinet, stating that the claim of Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar will be examined by the competent authorities upon the production by those gentlemen of the necessary documentary evidence in support of it;* and I am to request that you will invite Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar to submit the evidence required without further delay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 42.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 9.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 17, 1886.

IT is with regret that I learn from your despatch No. 12 of the 5th instant that the period is approaching when your valuable services will be lost to Her Majesty's Government, and I willingly accede to your proposal that you should be allowed to remain on the active list until the end of the current quarter.

You are authorized to vacate your post at the time mentioned by you, and to leave Mr. H. White in charge upon your departure.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 43.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 17.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 9, 1886.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 3rd instant regarding disturbances on the Algerian frontier, no tidings have been received overland, as communications by courier are very tardy in reaching Tangier.

M. Féraud informed me that he had not received any official account from the Government in Algeria, but he showed me French journals containing reports of what had occurred.

The Berber tribes of Angad and Mehaya, who dwell in the mountainous districts about three days' journey south of the Moorish town of Oochda, had been fighting amongst themselves, and the Governor of that town, Kaid Abdelmaleh, late Envoy to France, having intervened, was attacked and compelled to take refuge within the French frontier.

The Algerian authorities dispatched a small force under a native officer to require the tribe who had pursued the Kaid Abdelmaleh into French territory to withdraw; they

* No. 33.

were fired at, and three of the Algerian troopers were killed. The town of Oochda has also since been attacked by one of the rebel tribes. A larger force has been dispatched by the French authorities to the frontier to maintain order.

The Arab Chief, Booamama, who two years ago had made raids into the French territory, and who had subsequently taken refuge with his followers in the desert to the south of Figuig, is reported to be with the insurgents.

As the Sultan is in Soos with the chief forces His Majesty has at his command, it is to be feared that this revolt has been brought about through Booamama's influence, with a view of bringing about a conflict with the French, and in the hope that the latter will enter Morocco, causing a general insurrection and holy war.

If these disturbances continue, the Sultan may return or send a portion of his forces to Fez and Oochda to put down the rebellion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 44.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 2. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tripoli, April 9, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to report a daring raid that was made on the 1st instant by the "Werghuma," a powerful Tunisian frontier tribe, upon Tripoli territory at a spot a few miles to the westward of the town of Zuara, at about thirty-five or forty miles on this side of the frontier.

The raids by this robber tribe upon its Tripoli neighbours and counter-raids by the latter in retaliation, or in the endeavour to recover property taken from them, date from time immemorial, and were formerly looked upon as matters of but minor local importance. Since the occupation, however, of Tunis by the French, the local Government of Tripoli has strictly forbidden the Tripoli tribes near the frontier to cross it under any circumstances, enjoining them to act strictly on the defensive, being anxious to avoid giving the French any cause of complaint; but, notwithstanding these precautions, the number of forays by the "Werghuma" have increased of late, and notably so since the late difficulties have arisen in Turkey in Europe, as many as eight different raids having been made by that tribe on this province within the last two months.

The last attack, which was more serious than the others, having been made by 300 horsemen, was delivered at a moment when the local Government were in daily expectation of the news of an outbreak of hostilities between Greece and Turkey.

The people of Zuara, who had been warned of the intended attack and armed by the Government with rifles, offered a stubborn resistance, and after several hours' fighting routed the "Werghuma," with a loss to the latter of forty killed, the wounded being carried off, and captured ten horses and about 200 Arab guns.

The Vali has now sent 200 regular cavalry to Zuara to assist the natives in repelling any further attack that may be made upon them.

The moment chosen for this last attack, coupled with the activity displayed by Sidi Yusef Ben Ali (General Allegro), the Tunisian Governor of the district between Gabes and the frontier, who a few days after this last foray and on one or two other occasions lately visited this port *incognito* and communicated with the French Consul-General, has caused some uneasiness to be felt by the Vali, who fears that these raids are instigated or encouraged by the French authorities in Tunis, with the object of some day discovering that on the Tripoli frontier there are "Krumirs" who require to be brought into subjection.

The notoriety gained by General Allegro for his success as an organizer of well-timed raids and counter-raids on the Algero-Tunisian frontier just before the French invasion and occupation of Tunis, which was commenced with the ostensible object of chastising "Krumirs," lends considerable colouring to the suspicions entertained by the Vali.

On the occasion of General Allegro's last secret visit to Tripoli, the French Consul-General made some objections to the Government arming the Tripoli tribes.

The military force in this country has, since the French occupation of Tunis, been gradually raised from 2,000 to 18,000 or 20,000 regular Turkish troops, and there are about 60,000 stand of arms ready for distribution amongst the native population in the event of an invasion of the country being attempted.

The Vali expresses his anxiety to avoid giving the least cause of offence to the French, but fears they may be seeking to get up a pretext for future aggression.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 45.

Mr. Allen to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 21.)

British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, 55, New Broad Street,
London, April 2, 1886.

My Lord,

THE Committee of British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society having for many years past had brought before their notice some of the abuses arising from the state of misgovernment in Morocco, more especially in connection with the Slave Trade and the open slave-markets still held in the cities of the interior, desire to call the attention of your Lordship to the condition of the country under the rule of His Shereefian Majesty.

The revision of the Treaty of 1856, now in process of negotiation between the Sultan and the Representatives of Great Britain, Germany, and France, would afford an opportunity for impressing upon the Sultan the need for some important reforms in the administration of the government of the country.

The first and most essential step to be taken is the removal of the seat of the various Legations from Tangier to one of the capital cities of the interior, either Fez, Mequinez, or Morocco.

The Committee have personally, through a deputation from their body, obtained the views of the different Representatives upon this point, and, without a single exception, these gentlemen acknowledged the necessity of having the seat of the Legations removed, in order that direct access to the Sultan might be obtained, before any permanent good could be looked for.

The Committee therefore respectfully ask your Lordship to kindly look through the accompanying printed Report of their deputation, which contains much information obtained on the spot, bearing out the view they have expressed as to the importance of removing the seat of the British Legation from Tangier to one of the capital cities. This step was advocated by Sir John Drummond Hay some twenty years ago, and his Excellency informed the deputation that not very long since he again urged this change upon Her Majesty's Government.

On behalf of the Committee, I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHAS. H. ALLEN, Secretary.

No. 46.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 21, 8.30 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) Tunis, April 20, 1886, 6.50 P.M.
A CONFLICT has arisen between tribes on borders of Tripoli, in which some French soldiers are said to have been killed.

No. 47.

Sir P. Currie to Sir R. Herbert.

Foreign Office, April 21, 1886.

Sir,
WITH reference to my letter of the 2nd February, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, copies of further correspondence, as marked in the margin,* relative to the claim of Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar, of Malta, on account of losses alleged to have been sustained by them at Gabes in 1881.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

* Nos. 33 and 41.

No. 48.

The Earl of Rosebery to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 239.)

Foreign Office, April 21, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's No. 17 of April 5, 1886: ante, No. 31.]

No. 49.

The Earl of Rosebery to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 240.)

Foreign Office, April 21, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Sir C. Ford's No. 37 of April 4, 1886: ante, No. 29.]

No. 50.

The Earl of Rosebery to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 241.)

Foreign Office, April 21, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's No. 18 of April 5, 1886: ante, No. 32.]

No. 51.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 10.)

Foreign Office, April 21, 1886.

[Transmits copies of Sir C. Ford's No. 37 of April 4, 1886; and Consul-General Playfair's No. 1 of April 2, 1886: ante, Nos. 28 and 29.]

No. 52.

Sir Villiers Lister to Sir R. Thompson.

Foreign Office, April 21, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's No. 18 of April 5, 1886: ante, No. 32.]

No. 53.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 24.)

(No. 18.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 17, 1886.

WITH reference to my despatches No. 11 of the 3rd and No. 16 of the 7th April, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received a reply from the Vizier Garneet in answer to the letter I had addressed him regarding the German subjects who had been cast on shore near Wad Dra, in the southern coast of Soos, acquainting me that the Sultan had taken active steps to rescue the survivors from the tribe into whose hands they had fallen, and that tidings had been received at the Court that the Sheikh of Wadnoon had paid a ransom to the Arabs who had brought the Germans from the district of the Wad Dra, and that, in pursuance of His Majesty's orders, the Sheikh was about to forward them in safety to Mogador overland.

The Vizier informed me that the Sultan had directed him to express to me His Majesty's satisfaction that I had given these friendly counsels on this occasion.

Her Majesty's Consul at Mogador, in a private letter dated the 11th instant, confirms the tidings that seven of the crew of the boat of the "Gottorp" were saved, and that two

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were drowned when the boat upset, and that 200 dollars were paid by the Sheikh of Wadnoon to the Arabs who had brought the survivors in safety to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 54.

Mr. Teall to Sir J. Pauncefoot.—(Received April 24.)

*British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, 55, New Broad Street,
London, April 22, 1886.*

Sir,

IN the absence from town of Mr. Charles Allen, I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and, in reply, inclose two copies of the Report referred to in the letter to the Earl of Rosebery from this Society.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. EASTOE TEALL.

No. 55.

The Earl of Rosebery to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 253. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, April 24, 1886.*

[Transmits copy of Consul-General Drummond Hay's No. 2, Confidential, of April 9, 1886: *ante*, No. 44.]

No. 56.

The Earl of Rosebery to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 254.) *Foreign Office, April 24, 1886.*

[Transmits copy of Sir J. Drummond Hay's No. 17 of April 9, 1886: *ante*, No. 43.]

No. 57.

Consul-General Playfair to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 26.)

(No. 26.)

My Lord,

Algiers, April 20, 1886.

I HAVE received from Consul Sandwith the inclosed documents marked (A) to (F)* regarding the affairs of General Hamida Ben Ayad of Tunis.

The first of these (A) is Mr. Sandwith's covering despatch, in which he states his opinion that the General's interests have been unjustly sacrificed, and communicates the hope entertained by the latter that your Lordship would be pleased to take diplomatic action in his behalf. There is little doubt in my mind that his British protection, which at one time was necessary for the preservation of his life and property, is now actually prejudicial to him, and I feel certain that if he could bring himself to abandon this, and to accept French naturalization, his difficulties would speedily disappear.

I have hinted this to his son, Si Taib, who has come to Algiers to see me, but I can hardly press the point, and he is most unwilling to entertain the idea. The case of this family is a striking proof, if any were needed, of the inadvisability of according British protection to foreigners who have no claim to it as their birthright.

(B) is a précis of the latest case in which the General has been engaged. This is so clear that I have nothing to add to it: there can be little doubt that in this instance at least he has not been treated with strict justice.

The document (C) is certainly an undue stretch of authority, and the sale of the General's property, and that of his son, looks very like spoliation, such as one might have expected before the French Protectorate.

The question of how far the French Government is liable for arbitrary acts committed in respect of foreigners in Tunis is a very serious one. The native Govern-

* Document (A) only printed.

ment has completely lost its independence, and can do nothing without the approval of the Resident-General. The latter can always plead the authority of the Bey, while the French Tribunals declare themselves incompetent.

Mr. Sandwith, in his despatch to your Lordship No. 17, dated the 5th instant, asserts that the recent changes in the magistrature are due to the too great independence shown by the Magistrates: I do not see what is left to a foreigner under such circumstances except diplomatic action on the part of his Government.

(D) has reference to the matter which has engaged so much the attention of Her Majesty's Government, and to settle which a Court of Arbitration was appointed on which Sir Adrian Dingli acted as British Arbitrator. This took place before my official connection with Tunis. I have never had an opportunity of studying the case; I have not even seen a copy of the award, and no part of the record is here, at Algiers.

On the occasion of my first visit to Tunis a year ago General Ben Ayad expressed himself much disappointed at the result of the award, and he begged me to recommend him an English solicitor at Paris acquainted with French jurisprudence, whom he might consult. I communicated with Lord Lyons on the subject, and his Excellency sent me the name of M. Mourilyan, whose certificate is attached to the Memoir marked (D).

The General begs me to communicate to your Lordship what has lately taken place; I can only repeat his words, without guaranteeing the accuracy of the statement.

The award condemned him in the sum of 1,200,000 piastres, a sum which he is quite unable to pay. The Resident-General, convinced of this fact, offered to compromise the award for 400,000 piastres, payable by instalments in ten years. This offer he accepted as a *modus vivendi*, by the advice of his Avocat, M. Aicard, Bâtonnier of the Order at Marseilles.

Thereupon he executed a power of attorney authorizing his son, Si Taib, who is well acquainted with French, to do what might be necessary in the matter, and to complete the negotiations with the French authorities.

Si Taib waited on M. Pienne, Directeur des Finances, who submitted to him for signature a document containing, not as he had anticipated, a mere compromise of the Arbitral Award, but a complete renunciation on the part of his father of all his other claims on the Tunisian Government.

These claims are three in number, and were not submitted to the Arbitrators at all. They refer to three properties to which he asserts his right:—

1. A mill at Djedeida.
2. An estate in the Island of Djerba.
3. "The Marsa property."

The whole pith of the matter lies in this last, which was only specified as above. But it consists principally of the house appropriated by the reigning Bey for the use of the British Consul-General, and on which he, the Bey, laid out large sums of money. It was the property of Ben Ayad; the Bey bought it from him, but never paid the purchase-money, so he maintains that it is his still, as there is no prescription in Tunis.

He does not wish to claim it from the British Consul, but he argues that if it has to be given up to any one it should be given to him, and there is no doubt that the French authorities are extremely anxious to possess it.

The General prays your Lordship to urge on the French Government the propriety of allowing the compromise to be carried out as it was first proposed to him, and leaving his claims on the Tunisian Government to be settled by competent Tribunals.

The Memoir marked (E) is an exposition of a suit which has created some sensation at Paris, as the "*Procès Ben Ayad*." A suit between the descendants of Abd-er-Rahman Ben Ayad, represented by Hamida Ben Ayad, and those of Mahmoud Ben Ayad, both of common Tunisian origin, but the former enjoying British and the latter French protection. It is supposed that this question of nationality has had some influence adverse to our protégé, on the decision given by the "*Tribunal de la Seine*." It is not necessary that I should dwell upon it, or bring it in any especial manner to your Lordship's notice. The General begs me to lay the document before your Lordship, and I cannot refuse to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

Inclosure in No. 57.

Consul Sandwith to Consul-General Playfair.(A.)
Sir,

Tunis, April 1, 1886.

GENERAL HAMIDA BEN AYAD has submitted to me a number of documents bearing on a dispute between himself and M. Gabriel Valensi, a précis of which, drawn up for me by the courtesy of Mr. Wheeler, I have the honour to inclose. There is only one paper in the collection which seems of sufficient importance to merit being sent in *extenso*, and that is the Circular issued by the Governor or Caïd of the Province of El-Kabli to the subordinate Governors, directing the sale of the crops of General Ben Ayad and of his son, Abdul Gelil.

The General is also desirous that I should send you the opinions of his Paris lawyers on a case submitted to arbitration in 1884, and on a sentence pronounced by a French Tribunal in a suit between himself and his cousin, in both which instances his interests would seem to have been unjustly sacrificed. He thinks that there is fair ground for diplomatic representations being made by Her Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Government of the French Republic as regards the unfair attitude assumed by the French Tribunals in these suits. It is in the belief that you will think there is room to bring these matters to the notice of Her Majesty's Government that the General begs me to transmit the documents to you

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 58.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir C. Ford.

(No. 48.) *Foreign Office, April 26, 1886.*
[Transmits copy of Sir J. Drummond Hay's No. 17 of April 9, 1886: *ante*, No. 43.]

No. 59.

Sir Villiers Lister to Consul Sandwith.

(No. 5. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, April 26, 1886.*
[Transmits copy of Consul-General Drummond Hay's No. 2, Confidential, of April 9, 1886: *ante*, No. 44.]

No. 60.

Sir Villiers Lister to Consul-General Playfair.

(No. 1.) *Foreign Office, April 26, 1886.*
[Transmits copy of Sir J. Drummond Hay's No. 17 of April 9, 1886: *ante*, No. 43.]

No. 61.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 30.)(No. 20.)
My Lord,

Tunis, April 26, 1886.

BY my despatch No. 19 of the 21st instant, I had the honour to report to your Lordship the fact of a conflict having taken place between tribes inhabiting the borders of Tripoli.

What news has since transpired of these events goes to show that they are of little importance, such as are likely to happen at any moment among half-civilized races.

That French soldiers lost their lives in the affair, which I mentioned as a rumour, seems to be untrue, as none were even called out.

The Consular Agents at Gabes and Djerba, who are nearest to the seat of the

disorders, have sent me no report of them, which only proves that they are without importance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 62.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 238. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, April 30, 1886.*
[Transmits copies of Sir J. Drummond Hay's No. 11, April 3, and No. 16, Confidential, of April 7, 1886: *ante*, Nos. 35 and 39.]

No. 63.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir C. Ford.

(No. 50.) *Foreign Office, April 30, 1886.*
[Transmits copy of Sir J. Drummond Hay's No. 15 of April 7, 1886: *ante*, No. 37.]

No. 64.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir C. Ford.

(No. 51.) *Foreign Office, April 30, 1886.*
[Transmits copy of Consul-General Playfair's No. 2 of April 9, 1886: *ante*, No. 38.]

No. 65.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 12.) *Foreign Office, April 30, 1886.*
[Transmits copy of Consul-General Playfair's No. 2 of April 9, 1886: *ante*, No. 38.]

No. 66.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 13.) *Foreign Office, April 30, 1886.*
Sir, I TRANSMIT to you herewith copy of a letter from the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, calling attention to the condition of the country under the rule of His Shereefian Majesty, and especially to the Slave Trade and the open slave markets still held in the cities of the interior, and recommending that the seat of the British Legation should be removed from Tangier to one of the capital cities; * and I have to request that you will furnish me with such observations as you may have to offer on the subject of the inclosed communication.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 67.

Sir Villiers Lister to Mr. Allen.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 30, 1886.*
I AM directed by the Earl of Rosebery to acknowledge the receipt, on the 21st instant, of your letter of the 2nd instant, calling attention to the condition of the

* No. 45.

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

country under the rule of His Shereefian Majesty, and especially to the Slave Trade and the open slave markets still held in the cities of the interior, and recommending that the seat of the British Legation should be removed from Tangier to one of the capital cities; and I am to state to you that the subject of your letter will receive his Lordship's careful consideration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No 68.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 20.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 28, 1886.

WITH reference to Earl Granville's despatches Nos. 13 and 29 of the 18th March and the 18th June of last year, transmitting copies of correspondence with the Gibraltar authorities upon the subject of certain property at that garrison which had belonged to a Moor named Hamed-ben-Amar Beggia, who died intestate in the year 1820, when the property in question was taken possession of by the Moorish Consul on account of the Sultan, and to the instructions I received from Her Majesty's Government to frame a communication to the Sultan on the basis of the recommendations of the Governor of Gibraltar, Sir John Adye, I am happy to inform your Lordship that this long-vexed question has been brought to a satisfactory conclusion, without giving rise to any feelings of displeasure on the part of the Sultan, but, on the contrary, I am requested to convey to Her Majesty's Government the Sultan's thanks for the goodwill which has been evinced in the proposed mode of settlement of the claims of the Moorish Government on the said property.

I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, translation of the letter* I addressed to Acting Minister Cid Mohammed Torres on the 10th December last, of his reply, and of the Sultan's orders to him. I have transmitted to his Excellency General Sir John Adye copies of these documents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 68.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

December 10, 1885.

HER Majesty's Government has directed me to bring under the notice of the Sultan the long-pending question respecting the property of the British Crown at Gibraltar, which had been held by the Moorish subject, Hamed-ben-Amar Beggia, who died intestate at that place about sixty-five years ago, when the said property was taken possession of by the Moorish Consul at Gibraltar, as it was declared that the Sultan was the rightful heir of His Majesty's subjects who die intestate. The Moorish Government was informed at that time, and also in past years, whenever this question has been raised, that land and houses in Gibraltar, which is a military garrison, are the property of the Crown, and therefore those who have held or hold such property can have no right to such land or houses when their lease expires.

On a reference to the Archives at the Moorish Court there will no doubt be found communications from the Moorish Consuls, Mr. Benoliel and Cid Mohammed Erzine,† and the Moorish Government will learn that the right of the Crown to the said property left by Beggia had always been maintained by the authorities at Gibraltar, and by my predecessors, but that for various considerations, and a desire to avoid that any steps should be taken which might have caused dissatisfaction to His Shereefian Majesty's Grandsire, Muley Abderrahman, the Moorish Consuls had been tacitly allowed to remain in possession. In consequence of the steps that have been taken latterly for the improvement of the town of Gibraltar, and the necessity of removing houses that are in a ruinous state and therefore are eyesores, the rights of all tenants have been inquired into,

* The propositions it contained were in accordance with the suggestions of the Governor of Gibraltar.—J. H. D. H.

† These persons held the post of Moorish Consuls from 1820 to 1863, when Hadj Said Gesoos was appointed Consul.

and the Crown has decided on taking possession of tenements the leases of which have expired.

The property now in the hands of the Moorish Consul, Hadj Saïd Gesoos, which had been held by the deceased Beggia, are:—

1. A three-storied building in Waterport Street, value calculated more or less to be about 25,000 dollars.

2. A dilapidated building in City Mill Lane (the value of which has not been ascertained, but the tenement valuation is about 548 dollars).

Half this property had, at the time of the decease of Beggia, belonged to the heirs of a person named Emmanuel Viale. Therefore, half the rent has hitherto been paid to the said co-heirs, and half has been received by the Moorish Consul.

The third property is a piece of land in the southern district of Gibraltar, upon which are erected some sheds, the land being let and cultivated as a garden. The tenement valuation is about 90 dollars.

Though Her Majesty's Government have a perfect right to take possession of these three properties and dispose of them as they might think proper in the interest of the Crown, they have, out of consideration for the friendship existing between the two Governments, and in their desire to give an especial proof of their goodwill, authorized me to inform His Shereefian Majesty the Sultan that the house in Waterport Street, now tenanted by the Moorish Consul, will be left for his use, on condition that he pay per annum the nominal rent of 1 peseta, that he maintain the house in repair at his expense solely or that of the Moorish Government, and that, in case at any time the Moorish Government should no longer require the house for the Consul, it be restored to the British Government as Crown property, which it legally is.

It is desired that the dilapidated house in City Mill Lane should be sold at once, and that half the proceeds of the sale should be handed over, through me, to His Majesty the Sultan, and the other half to the heirs of the above-mentioned Emmanuel Viale. It is requested, therefore, that His Shereefian Majesty make known this decision to Hadj Saïd Gesoos, in order that the sale be forthwith effected.

With regard to the garden and sheds, I am directed to inform His Shereefian Majesty that Her Majesty's Government expect that after the above proofs of goodwill in the disposition of this property, which, as I have stated, legally belongs to the Crown, His Majesty will give orders to the Moorish Consul to relinquish all claims upon it or the small rent hitherto received by him for it, as it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to make other dispositions regarding this land, which, in its present state, is comparatively of little value.

Peace.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 68.

Cid Mohammed Ben Alarby Torres to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

Praise be to the one God!

(Translation.)

21 Regeb, 1303 (April 26, 1883).

TO our well-beloved the honourable and judicious Minister Plenipotentiary of the Queen of Great Britain and Empress of India.

We continue to make much inquiry regarding you, praying God that you may be in health and happiness, which promised.

You had addressed us a letter regarding the properties of the Moorish Government at Gibraltar, which is in the dominions of Great Britain, and you requested us to refer it to His Shereefian Majesty.

We referred the letter to our lord the Sultan, who has replied that no opposition shall be offered to whatsoever may be the law, and that whatsoever may be conceded as a mark of goodwill is to be accepted. His Majesty has ordered us to request you to thank your powerful Government for what it is proposed should be done from friendship in the question of the properties, and this we do in accordance with His Majesty's order.

We are further ordered to cause to be carried into execution that which is proposed in your aforesaid letter.

Inclosed is a copy of the Shereefian letter. Peace and friendship.

(Signed) MOHAMMED BEN ALARBY TORRES.
(May God be merciful to him.)

P.S.—I am about to address a letter to the Moorish Consul, and I shall send him the copy of His Shereefian Majesty's letter, with orders that he carry it into execution.

Inclosure 3 in No. 68.

The Sultan's Edict to Cid Mohammed Torres.

Praise be to the one God!

(Translation.)

TO our faithful officer, Hadj Mohammed Alarby Torres.

May God be with thee. Peace and God's mercy and blessing be on thee.

Thy letter has reached us, inclosing a letter from the English Ambassador to thee on the subject of the properties of Hamed-ben-Amar Beggia at Gibraltar, which were transferred to our Government as their inheritance, and is now in the hands of our bondsman, Hadj Saïd Gesoos, and we have understood its contents, that his (the British) Government has directed him to bring about a settlement of this matter as is explained, in accordance with their law. We order thee, therefore, to reply to him that our Government shall not put impediments in the execution by their officers of whatever may be their law. However, whatsoever may be conceded on account of their friendship is accepted, and he (the British Minister) will thank his Government, on the part of our person exalted by God, for their goodwill in this matter of these properties.

Carry, therefore, into execution what he (the British Minister) has mentioned in his letter, and act in accordance with what he has recommended. Do not fail.

Peace.

(L.S. of Sultan.)

16 Joomad I, 1303 (February 21, 1886).

No. 69.

The Earl of Rosebery to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 293.)

Foreign Office, May 8, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Consul-General Playfair's despatch No. 26 of April 20, 1886: ante, No. 57.]

No. 70.

Sir T. V. Lister to Sir R. Herbert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 8, 1886.

WITH reference to your letter of the 15th June last, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to transmit to you herewith the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier,* reporting the settlement of the question as to the property at Gibraltar to which claim was laid by the Sultan of Morocco, and inclosing copies of the correspondence which had passed with the Moorish Government upon the subject.

I am to request that, in laying these papers before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, you will inform his Lordship that, with his concurrence, Lord Rosebery proposes to approve Sir J. Drummond Hay's action, whereby this long-vexed question has been brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 71.

Consul Payton to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 18. Consular.)

My Lord,

Mogador, April 27, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to report that a small German steamer named the "Gottorp" arrived here on the 6th March from Lisbon, her cargo being samples of German manufactures, for the purpose, it is said, of extending German trade in distant countries.

Doing very little in Mogador, she left in about a week, ostensibly for the Canary Islands, but returned in four days, reporting that she had not been able to communicate with the Canaries owing to stormy weather.

* No. 68.

It may be remarked that a French steamer, the "Verité," was working at the Canary Islands as usual, and it was generally believed that, instead of proceeding to the Canaries, the "Gottorp" had gone to Agadir, or further south.

Leaving here about the 18th March for Rabat, the "Gottorp" again made her appearance on the 28th March, coming from the south, reporting that they had lost a boat, with nine men, on the coast between Cape Noon and Cape Juby, that they believed some of the men had reached the shore in safety, but were unable to send another boat, having only six men remaining. It was subsequently ascertained that two of the men had been drowned, and that the seven survivors, who at first suffered great hardships and were attacked by some of the Arabs, afterwards came into the hands of Kaid Dahman Ould Bairook, of Wad Noon, who is keeping them, it is said, until the Sultan's expedition, referred to in my despatch No. 15, arrives in those parts.

Much interest seems to be taken in Berlin in the fate of these men, and the German Vice-Consul here is constantly writing to the Sultan's officials, begging that the men may not be longer detained, but sent on to Mogador, where the "Gottorp" is awaiting them.

The place where the boat was capsized, either in attempting to effect a landing, or in approaching the shore to take soundings, is said to be in the Draa country, some distance south of Wad Noon. There appears to be a strong impression in the Canary Islands that the "Gottorp's" mission was rather colonization than commerce, and that she was seeking to found a German colony on the coast of Draa.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHAS. A. PAYTON.

No. 72.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 23.)

My Lord,

Tunis, May 5, 1886.

THE nature of the incursion which the Werghuma tribe recently made into Tripolitan territory, copy of Mr. Consul-General Drummond Hay's Report of which was inclosed in Sir Villiers Lister's despatch No. 5 of the 26th ultimo, is still imperfectly known here by the public. On making inquiries on the subject a fortnight ago at the French Residency I was assured that the situation on the frontier was excellent, though of course I did not attach much importance to such an assurance from that quarter.

It is more surprising that I should still be without any Report on the subject from the Consular Agent at Gabes, the nearest town to the frontier. I have written to remind him that it is his duty to keep me informed of everything of public interest occurring in his district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 73.

Consul-General Playfair to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 3.)

My Lord,

Tlemcen, May 6, 1886.

MY last despatch giving an account of the state of affairs on the frontier of Morocco was dated the 9th April, No. 2. I have made no Report since, as I had little reliable information on the subject, and I was not without hope that I might be able to visit the scene of the disturbance and ascertain the state of affairs myself.

I have just arrived here from Lalla Marnia (the French orthography for Lella Maghnia), where I waited on the Commandant Supérieur and asked him if it would be possible for me to go to Oudjda; he informed me that in quieter times he would have gladly given me the necessary escort, but that now complete anarchy prevails; there is no Government there of any kind, and that though actual fighting has ceased, every man lives "fusil en main."

I may be allowed to recapitulate what I have already reported.

Oudjda is occupied by two tribes, the Angad, who are of Berber origin, and the Mehaya, also probably Berbers, but more nomadic. The Governor, or Amel, of the

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place, on the part of the Sultan, was Si Abd-el-Melek, who went last year as Ambassador to Paris.

This officer, either on his own initiative or acting under orders from the Sultan, determined to weaken the strength of the Mehaya by breaking it up into four sections, instead of leaving it as heretofore under a single Caïd, Si Bou Bekr. One of the new fractions, the Achache, he placed under the authority of a Chief named Chaïbi. Aboo Bekr attacked the Achache, drove them across the French frontier, and both Chiefs fell in the encounter.

Abd-el-Melek, at the head of the Angads, pursued the Mehaya, but he was defeated with great loss, and had himself to flee to Lalla Marnia, where he solicited French assistance; this, of course, was refused.

Nevertheless, as it was feared that an incursion might be made by the belligerents, the battalion of Chasseurs à Pied and the Chasseurs d'Afrique from Tlemçen were sent to Lalla Marnia, and a section of artillery and a company of Zouaves from Oran joined them, the whole being under the command of General Gand.

The Amel was conducted along the frontier as far as the nearest point to the Moroccan fortress of Adjeroud, on the sea, and there he still remains.

The fighting near Oudjda has been very heavy, and the Angads have on every occasion been defeated with great loss. I met several of their Chiefs at Marnia, where they had taken refuge with a few followers; others have fled further south and are camped on the River Kiss. Saheli, the present Chief of the Mehaya, seems to have given up the idea of any further operations, and to have retired to some distance. Under these circumstances, the presence of General Gand on the frontier seemed no longer necessary, and his column has been broken up.

How long this tranquillity may last no one can say. The French officers complain loudly of the danger to Algeria of having hostilities constantly going on in proximity to their frontier. They remember that very similar circumstances led to the campaign of 1844, which ended by the battle of Isly. They see that whenever the Sultan is engaged, as at present, in the south, his orders are disregarded at the other extremity of his dominions, and they fear that the disturbances which have their origin in Morocco may spread to Algeria. Therefore, they maintain that the much talked of "rectification of frontier" is every day becoming more necessary.

The papers do not agitate the question very much at the present moment, as they see that it is not a favourable time to clamour for an extension of territory, but it is only kept in reserve, and, like the Khoumir, the Angads and the Mehaya will reappear on the stage whenever their presence is required. In the meantime, the late troubles on the frontier will be remembered and referred to when necessary.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

No. 74.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 14.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 13, 1886.

THE accompanying extract from the Manchester "Courier,"* having reference to Morocco, has been communicated to me by Sir Joseph Lee, and I should be obliged if you would return it to me after perusal, with any observations you may wish to offer thereon.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 75.

The Earl of Rosebery to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 314.)

Foreign Office, May 15, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's No. 23 of May 5, 1886: *ante*, No. 72.]

* Not printed.

No. 76.

The Earl of Rosebery to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 315.)

Foreign Office, May 15, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Consul Payton's No. 18, Consular, of April 27, 1886: *ante*, No. 71.]

No. 77.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 22.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 10, 1886.

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 11, 16, and 18 of the 3rd, 7th, and 17th of last month, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the German steamer "Gottorp" arrived here on the 8th instant, bringing the German passengers and sailors who had been cast on shore on the southern coast of Morocco.

Dr. Jaunach, one of the scientific gentlemen on board that vessel, whose life has been saved, called to thank me for having written to the Moorish Court to urge that the Sultan should take active steps to rescue the German subjects from the hands of the Arabs near Wad Drâa. He tells me that M. de Hundt and his (Dr. Jaunach's) servant were the only passengers who lost their lives by the swamping of a boat to the south of Wad Drâa. He states that the Arabs who took them prisoners treated them very badly, but from the time they fell into the hands of Sheikh Beyrouk, of Wad Noon, they were well treated, and that on their arrival at the camp of the Sultan they were brought into the presence of His Majesty, who directed that they should be provided with clothing and food, and gave them letters of recommendation to his officers to take care that all their wants were attended to until they reached Mogador.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 78.

Sir Villiers Lister to Consul-General Drummond Hay.

(No. 2.)

Foreign Office, May 17, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's No. 23 of May 5, 1886: *ante*, No. 72.]

No. 79.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 264.)

Foreign Office, May 17, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Consul Payton's No. 18, Consular, of April 27, 1886: *ante*, No. 71.]

No. 80.

Consul Payton to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 18.)

(No. 19. Consular.)

My Lord,

Mogador, May 7, 1886.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 18 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the seven men from the German steam-ship "Gottorp" arrived here on the 3rd instant, and proceeded northward in their steamer on the 4th.

It is said that the place where their boat was upset and where they landed was in the Ait Djimel territory, beyond the River Draa, and the tribe into whose hands they fell was called the Ouled Bou Aïta, by whom they were imprisoned in a hut, roughly handled on attempting to escape, and robbed; but afterwards the powerful neighbouring

Chief Kaid Dahman Ould Bairook, of Wad Noon, obtained possession of them on promise of paying a ransom.

From this time they were well treated and sent up to Mogador on mule-back with a numerous escort.

They had an audience of the Sultan on the 27th April at his camp near the town of Messa, below Agadir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. A. PAYTON.

No. 81.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 24.)
My Lord,

Tangier, May 13, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 13 of the 30th ultimo, transmitting copy of a letter addressed to your Lordship by the Anti-Slavery Society, calling attention to the state of this country, and especially to the Slave Trade, and recommending that the seat of the British Legation should be removed from Tangier to one of the Moorish capitals, and directing me to furnish your Lordship with such observations as I have to offer on the subject of the said communication.

On the 23rd ultimo I addressed your Lordship a despatch marked "Africa, No. 3," and in the following paragraphs I suggested the course that might be pursued to bring about an improvement in the government and general state of this country, and also to attain the abolition of slavery:—

"That the Great Powers should come to an understanding regarding the maintenance of the independence and integrity of Morocco, on account of the important position it holds, and that in such case the Sultan should be given clearly to understand that they can no longer allow that, in a country like Morocco, situated within sight of Europe, the institution of slavery, which is abhorrent to the feelings of the civilized world, should continue to exist, and that a term of years should be fixed when slavery is to cease. If the Great Powers decide upon adopting such a dictatorial course, the Sultan should be informed that his independence and the integrity of his dominions are guaranteed by the Great Powers, but that they can no longer allow a rich country like Morocco, contiguous to Europe, to remain in its present stagnant state, closed to the world; that a complete reform must take place in the administration of the Government so as to put a stop to the arbitrary and unjust proceedings of Moorish officials, and thus to insure security of life and property; that roads, railways, telegraphs, and mining operations should be allowed; and that the Representatives should reside at the Court, so that they may be enabled to aid and guide the Government in carrying out these radical measures.

"I may add that the amelioration of the condition of the white and free population of Morocco is, in a humanitarian point of view, far more important than that of the slaves, who are, on the whole, in a better position than the agricultural classes. The agitation of the question of slavery and occasional representations made to the Moorish Government in cases like that of Fattah, &c., will lead to no beneficial results which will satisfy the aspirations of the public."

Many years ago I suggested to Her Majesty's Government that the British Legation should be removed to the capitals—wherever the Sultan may reside. Occasional visits of the British or other foreign Representatives to the Moorish Court are sometimes attended with beneficial results, but the counsels that may be given on such occasions are soon forgotten, or rather the Sultan is persuaded by his Ministers not to introduce the reforms or improvements which have been recommended.

Ministers, Bashas, and other civil functionaries have no salaries assigned to them. Their emoluments, which are large, are derived from bribery, peculation, and corruption. The Chief Vizier, it is calculated, is in receipt of about 12,000*l.* a-year. It is hopeless to expect that he or the other Ministers will give sound advice to the Sultan, or support him in any attempt to reform the present system of government, for they know that if salaries were allotted to them they would not, in the present state of Moorish finance, receive one-tenth of their present incomes. When I urged upon the late Sultan Cid Mohammed a plan for a total reform in the system of the government as the only hope of improving the state of the agricultural population and developing the resources of this country, His Majesty expressed his approval, but replied that his Ministers would

probably be the first to revolt against his authority if he attempted to carry it into execution.

"Who," asked the Sultan, "would you recommend as fit officers to be encharged with effecting these reforms?"

To this query I could not reply, for I know not a competent, honest official in the Empire whom I could recommend. Any change would have to be effected very gradually, or all government, bad as the present may be, might disappear, and then a fearful state of anarchy and terror would take its place.

One of the reasons why it has not been thought advisable to remove the residence of the foreign Representatives to the Court is the risk that would continually be incurred of a rupture of relations in the conduct of direct representations or negotiations with the Sultan and his officers at the Court. The Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, with whom the Representatives are chiefly placed in communication, has hitherto resided in Tangier, and therefore, when a demand of a serious character is put forward by a Representative, the Moorish Minister is enabled to ward off a rupture of relations by declaring that he cannot give a reply, but must refer to the Sultan; then a correspondence with the Court commences, and all kinds of evasion and tergiversation couched in friendly language are resorted to, finally leading to some kind of compromise, when the foreign Representative is tired out by the delays that take place in obtaining replies from the Court, which, when received, are generally of an incomprehensible or evasive character.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs at Tangier has no powers to settle any questions except those of the most trivial character. He acts, if I be permitted to use such an expression, as a mere buffer, receiving placidly outbursts of anger or rebukes from his Sovereign, or, on the other hand, from the foreign Representatives. It is hopeless to expect, through such a system of conducting the relations with this Government, that the Sultan can be induced to introduce reforms or improvements. Another objection raised to the removal of the residence of the Minister to the Moorish Court is that it would entail a far heavier expenditure than the present. The salary of the Minister* would have to be doubled, and a Secretary of Legation and an Attaché who knew the language would be required. Residences for the Minister and for the gentlemen attached to him would have to be built at Fez and Morocco, and perhaps at Mequinez, for the Sultan resides part of the year at each of these capitals. The travelling expenses of the Minister and the members of his Mission would become heavy items in the extraordinary. In case of a revolution, or on the death of a Sultan, the safety of the members of the Legation would be endangered, and especially of those Powers who do not act with consideration and justice towards the natives.

When war broke out between Spain and Morocco, the foreign Representatives and every Christian and protected Jew left the country in precipitate haste, except myself and the gentlemen of this Legation, for we had done no wrong to the people and trusted them. In the interior a massacre of Christians and Jews without discrimination might at any time take place on the death of a Sultan, or in the event of a revolution or war.

Notwithstanding the above objections to the removal of the British and other foreign Agents to the Sultan's Court (for all will follow the example of the British Representative, though I know the majority are personally much opposed, for various reasons, to a removal to the Court), I beg to repeat that if Her Majesty's Government and other Powers desire that Morocco, which occupies such an important position in the map of the world, and is capable under a good Government of becoming a vast mart both for exports and imports, should not remain in its present stagnant and degraded state, the removal of the residences of the foreign Representatives to the Court is the first and most necessary step that will have to be adopted; but, as I have already observed, there will be a greater risk of a rupture of relations with some one of the Great Powers when any serious question arises.

I have perused the pamphlet of Messrs. Crawford and Allen on Morocco. The information it contains is of an interesting character, and in general correct. When I received your Lordship's despatch, I had not observed in the docket that the pamphlet was to be returned, so I made some rough notes in the margin in several passages, which I should not have ventured to do had I been aware that it was to be returned.

With regard to slaves in Morocco,† they are in general a happy, contented people; they are chiefly employed for domestic purposes in the houses of wealthy Moors. When

* 2,000*l.*

† For Reports on slavery in Morocco, see despatches: No. 1, Slave Trade, of March 30, 1876; No. 1, Africa, of May 1, 1883; No. 5, Africa, of June 16, 1883; No. 3, Africa, of March 13, 1884; and numerous other despatches.

granted freedom on the death of their masters or from other motives, they generally prefer to remain as attendants with the family. Female slaves are frequently bought to become concubines in harems, but the lot of these females is far preferable and less immoral than that of thousands of girls in Europe who are sold by their parents or sell themselves and fall into the lowest state of degradation.

If a slave has a child by her master, she is entitled to claim her freedom, and she, as well as the child, is entitled to inherit a share of the property on his death. Slaves are not introduced into Morocco by shipping, unless occasionally a Circassian or Abyssinian woman is brought *incognita* by her master, and this is a rare occurrence. Not more than from 300 to 500* slaves are brought annually from the interior, purchased by dealers in the districts of the Soudan, where the inhabitants are not of the Mahomedan religion. There may be great acts of cruelty practised by Chiefs, not under the sway of the Sultan, who make raids upon villages of the Soudan to carry off slaves, but when taken they are generally well fed and treated, for the same reasons that drovers of cattle, when travelling to a distant market, do not ill-treat the animals, for it would lessen their value.

Slaves brought to Morocco come from districts where they have little or no clothing and are in a most barbarous state, and where human sacrifices are practised, as in Dahomey and other African States. Some of these slaves have told me that they are in a far happier state in bondage than when they were in their own country, for they are clothed and fed, and by becoming Mahomedans have learnt a knowledge of the Almighty.

It is the peasant in Morocco, and not the slave, who deserves the interest of philanthropists and of the civilized world, and I hope the time has arrived when a more active part will be taken by the Powers of Europe in the future welfare of the Moorish people, whose ancestors, when in Spain, led the van in art and science, and who are capable, under a good Government, when there would be security of life and property, of becoming a great nation.

Under no circumstances, however, so long as the prosperity of the British Empire depends upon its maritime ascendancy, should we consent that any Great Power take possession of or assume a Protectorate over Morocco, whose northern shores command the entrance of the Mediterranean, the great passage of shipping to India and to the East.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 82.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 19.)

My Lord,

Tunis, April 21, 1886.

THE rumour has been current here for some days that disturbances had broken out on the Tripolitan frontier between the tribes inhabiting that region, and that some French soldiers who had been sent to keep order had been killed. That a conflict has taken place among the tribes no longer admits of doubt, though the fact of French soldiers having lost their lives in quelling the disturbance is still a matter of uncertainty. I had yesterday the honour of sending your Lordship a telegram in cypher to the following effect:—

"A conflict appears to have taken place between some tribes living in the borderland between Tunis and Tripoli in which some French soldiers are said to have lost their lives."

On the occupation of Tunis by French troops several tribes which were unwilling to submit themselves to the foreign invaders took refuge on Tripolitan territory; but long since most of the fugitives have returned, and a few unruly tribes only still linger on Turkish soil. The region they inhabit is so far from the routes of commerce that it is long before trustworthy information can reach this capital. I learn that the Civil Governor of Gabes, a certain "General" Allegro, has been dispatched to the disturbed district, and has confirmed the fact of tribal quarrels resulting in bloodshed. Gabes is the southernmost coast town of the Regency, where there is a considerable French garrison, and a large accumulation of warlike stores.

This seems hardly the moment for withdrawing troops from the country, according

* Not 4,000, as stated in the pamphlet on Morocco.—J. H. D. H.

to the recommendation made by General Le Bellin de Dionne after his recent tour, as reported in my despatch No. 18 of the 5th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 83.

Sir J. Goldsmid and Mr. Cohen to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 21.)

My Lord,

London, May 19, 1886.

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 10th April, inclosing a further despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, relative to the affairs of the Jews of Demnat.

We are pained at the report that the Jews of Demnat have preferred exaggerated claims for compensation in respect of the ill-treatment which some of their members undoubtedly sustained at the hands of the Governor of Demnat, and we need scarcely assure your Lordship that we would not screen the conduct of the claimants for compensation if, on closer inquiry, it should be found that undue demands have been made by the Demnat Jews.

We have written to the Jewish authorities at Demnat, calling their attention to the allegations that they put forward improper demands, and to the grounds on which such allegations are based. We have, at the same time, pointed out that if these charges were substantiated the effect might be to endanger the continuance of that sympathy and protection which Her Majesty's Government have so uniformly and so humanely extended to the Jews in Morocco whenever they have suffered oppression.

We are instructed to convey to Her Majesty's Government the thanks of the British Jews for the good offices of the Government, so benevolently exercised for the well-being of the Jews of Demnat and other parts of Morocco, and we have also to ask that we may be permitted through your Lordship to tender to Sir John Drummond Hay the very warm thanks of the Associations we have the honour to represent, for the great firmness which he has displayed in this matter.

We have, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN GOLDSMID, Vice-President of the
Anglo-Jewish Association.
ARTHUR COHEN, President of the London
Committee of Deputies of the British Jews.

No. 84.

Consul-General Playfair to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 4.)

My Lord,

Algiers, May 14, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Foreign Office despatch No. 1, dated the 26th ultimo, forwarding copy of a despatch from Sir John Drummond Hay, No. 17, dated the 19th idem, relative to the late disturbances on the Algerian frontier.

The actual state of the case has already been reported by me in my despatch from Hemcen No. 3, dated the 6th instant. It is quite certain Bon Amama has had nothing whatever to do with these disturbances. I have it on excellent authority that he has been for some time, and still is, at Touat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

No. 85.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 18.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 22, 1886.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 9 of the 23rd March, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a letter from the President of the London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews, and from the Vice-President of the Anglo-Jewish Association,

requesting that their thanks may be conveyed to you for your exertions on behalf of the Jews of Demnat, and stating that they have communicated with their co-religionists upon the subject of the alleged presentation by them of exaggerated claims for compensation.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 86.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 25.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 18, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the translation of a letter addressed to me by the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cid Mohammed Torres, stating that it has come to the knowledge of the Sultan that some foreign vessels have visited the coast of Soos for the purposes of trade, and that His Shereefian Majesty has therefore dispatched officers, attended by a body of cavalry, to require all persons who may have disembarked on that coast to leave it, and that if any person should hereafter land on that coast, it will be at their risk and peril.

I am requested by Cid Mohammed Torres to make this known to Her Majesty's Government, and that he has entered a protest, by order of His Majesty, against all persons who may land contrary to the established Regulations, and that no complaints for loss of life or property will be received by the Moorish Government on that account. Since the visit of the German steamer "Gottorp,"† it is reported that a Spanish vessel has visited the coast of Wad Noon and landed some persons, who are reported to have attempted to open a trade with the inhabitants.

It is my intention to give publicity to this communication by causing a Notice to be inserted in the "Gibraltar Chronicle."

In acknowledging the receipt of Cid Mohammed Torres' letter, I shall take the opportunity of reminding the Sultan and his Government of the advice given by Her Majesty's Government in the year 1876 and subsequent years regarding the advisability of opening a port for trade on the Soos coast,‡ which His Shereefian Majesty had on more than one occasion declared it was his intention to follow, as the best and simplest plan for checking attempts to trade with the inhabitants of that region, who have, at present, no other port but the distant one of Mogador, where they can sell their produce or purchase European merchandise.

The present campaign of the Sultan to Soos and the building of the town of Tizneet, in that province, have, I understand, been undertaken with the view of establishing more firmly His Majesty's authority in that part of his dominions, and of opening a port for trade.

From the latest accounts that have been received, no opposition has been offered to the Sultan's troops, and the tribes have given in their submission to His Shereefian Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

P.S.—The Spanish Minister has informed me since writing this despatch that he believes that the Spanish subjects landed for the purpose of making a survey of the coast between Wad Drâa and Cape Bojador.

J. H. D. H.

Inclosure in No. 86.

Hadj Mohammed Torres to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

12 Shaban, 1303 (17 May).

THE Shereefian Court has received information that some vessels of foreign nations have made their appearance on the coast of Wad Noon, laden with goods, with the object

* No. 83.

† See No. 77.

‡ See despatches No. 9, Commercial, of November 27, 1879; No. 14, Commercial, of May 28, 1880; and No. 9, Slave Trade, of November 3, 1881.

of carrying on trade with the natives. When the Governors of these places reported this to the Sultan, His Majesty gave orders to them to prevent any landing from these vessels, and sent the Vizir Cid Ali El-Musfeewy and Kaid M'Barek-ben-Shelh, with 100 horsemen, to protest against the proceedings of those persons and to order them to leave, and to inform them that their appearance in those places is contrary to established Regulations, and that they expose themselves and their property to danger, and also give trouble to the Government.

We now protest, in the name of His Majesty the Sultan, and give notice to the Representatives of foreign Powers that whenever any vessel appears in a place which is not a port opened to all foreign merchants for commerce, and any harm befalls them (the persons or the vessel) or their property, the responsibility will rest with them and not with the Government, and that the latter will not listen to any complaint or claim on their part.

We hope that you will refer this protest we make in the name of His Majesty the Sultan to your Government, and give us an answer.

Peace.

(Signed) MOHAMMED EL ARBY TORRES.

No. 87.

The Earl of Rosebery to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 340.)

Foreign Office, May 26, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Sir J. Drummond Hay's No. 22 of May 10, 1886: ante, No. 77.]

No. 88.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 283.)

Foreign Office, May 26, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Sir J. Drummond Hay's No. 22 of May 10, 1886: ante, No. 77.]

No. 89.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 19.)

Foreign Office, May 26, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Consul-General Playfair's No. 3 of May 6, 1886: ante, No. 73.]

No. 90.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 56.)

Foreign Office, May 26, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Consul-General Playfair's No. 3 of May 6, 1886: ante, No. 73.]

No. 91.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 28.)

(No. 25.)

My Lord,

Tunis, May 24, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the departure last week of M. Cambon, the Minister Resident of the French Republic in Tunis, for the southern district of this Regency. He was accompanied by the Military Attaché of the French Residency here, and it is believed that the object of his visit is to inquire into the disturbances of which that region has latterly been the scene.

It would appear that the Werghemma tribe inhabiting the southern frontier of the Regency had as early as February made a raid into Tripolitan territory and carried off

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twenty-five or thirty camels, which brought about a conflict in which a few lives were lost. Other fights followed, which culminated in an attack in force by the Werghemma, who were signally defeated, with the loss of several killed and wounded. This account, given me by the Consular Agent at Gabes, confirms in general terms that given by Mr. Consul-General Drummond Hay, copy of whose despatch was inclosed in the Foreign Office despatch No. 5 of the 26th ultimo.

A Turkish official from Tripoli is expected to meet the Governor of Arad, the well-known General Allegro, in order to settle the amount of blood-money which is due from one tribe to another, an immemorial custom with the Arabs.

It is, I hear, the intention of M. Cambon to proceed by land and at some distance from the coast, from the town of Zarzis to that of Gabes further north, thus traversing the disturbed district. By doing so without any military escort, the Minister will be in a position to affirm that the country is tranquil, which the military authorities are unwilling to concede. The relations of the latter with the Minister are far from being cordial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 92.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 31.)

(No. 27.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 22, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 14 of the 13th instant, transmitting an extract from the "Manchester Courier," dated the 10th April, communicated by Sir J. Lee, on the subject of the advantages which British commerce might derive if the Soos country was opened to trade.

The correspondent of that paper complains that the interests of British subjects are neglected, and quotes the following remarks alleged to have been made to him by a merchant at Mogador: "We have no Government," and that if they (British subjects) "were Spanish, French, or German subjects," they would have better protection and justice.

With regard to the statements made by the correspondent of the "Manchester Courier" respecting the attempts of foreign and British subjects, and of the so-called "Soos and North African Trading Company" to open a trade with the Soos, which forms part of the recognized dominions of the Sultan of Morocco, I beg to refer your Lordship to the despatches enumerated in the annexed note.

No success has ever attended these attempts. A Spanish subject named Butler, who landed in the year 1867 at Wad Noon for the purpose of trading with the inhabitants, was detained in captivity by the Sheikh of that district for seven years.* The British subject, Curtis, an intrepid adventurer, who lost his life last year in the Soudan, landed in 1883 on the Soos coast near a site called Erksheesh for purposes of trade, in contravention of the laws of Morocco, and was arrested by order of the Sultan and sent under escort to Mogador.† Some French subjects had made in past years similar attempts to trade, but were compelled to withdraw.

With regard to Her Majesty's Government, or myself as their Representative, not having paid proper attention to the advantages which might be derived from opening a trade with Soos, I have no hesitation in declaring, that it is the British Government and no other foreign Government, as will be learnt on a reference to the despatches I have noted, who have taken any earnest step with the view of inducing the Moorish Government to open a port on the coast of Soos for the purposes of trade.‡ The Sultan had agreed to follow the Counsels I had been authorized by Her Majesty's Government to offer upon this subject, and in 1882 he proceeded at the head of a large force into the Soos country to bring his unruly subjects of that province under better control, with the intention of establishing a port for trade.

His march through Soos was not opposed, and he gave orders for the building of a fortified town called Tizneets, where a garrison of Askar is to be placed. As there was a dearth in Soos that year and great distress prevailed amongst the inhabitants, no step was taken to open a port.

The Sultan has again proceeded this spring with a large force into Soos and

* See despatch No. 90 of October 26, 1874.

† See despatches No. 26 of April 4, No. 37 of May 6, No. 46 of June 5, 1883.

‡ See despatch No. 14, Commercial, of May 28, 1880.

has received the submission of all the tribes, and it is reported that His Majesty will take steps for opening a port in the neighbourhood of the garrisoned town of Tizneets, so that better security of life and property may be afforded to those who may come to trade on that coast.

The allegation of the Mogador correspondent of the Manchester "Courier" that the interests of British subjects in Morocco are neglected, does not surprise me; he was probably a partner of the late Mr. Curtis or an Agent of the Soos and North African Company, who put forward claims for compensation on account of the arrest of Curtis, and for the loss sustained by the Company,* on account of the merchandize which had been illicitly landed, having been carried off by the inhabitants. Her Majesty's Government declined to entertain the claim.†

Certain discontented British subjects who consider themselves aggrieved, because Her Majesty's Government has not thought it expedient to follow the example of other foreign Powers in sending squadrons or ships of war to enforce the payment by this Government, of the comparatively trivial claims of British subjects upon Moorish farmers, who were reduced to penury during the successive drought of four years, have frequently put forward charges against me and Consular officers in Morocco, of neglect of duty, and that foreign subjects are placed in a more advantageous footing than they are, but these accusers have never specified the privileges or advantages which foreign subjects have obtained, and which are not enjoyed by British subjects.

I have further to observe that there are more British merchants or traders than the aggregate number of all other foreign merchants in Morocco, and the amount of British trade is greater than the combined trade of all other nations in Morocco, necessarily, therefore, there are more frequent questions with the Moorish Government respecting the interests and claims of British subjects than of any other foreign Power.

With regard to the late visit of the steamer "Gottorp," M. Testa, the German Minister, informs me that the Government at Berlin have expressed in very decided language their disapproval of the conduct of the German subjects who had contravened the laws of Morocco, by attempting to land on that coast in a boat which was upset in the surf, when two men were drowned and the remainder of the crew were made captives and finally sent to Mogador by order of the Sultan.‡

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure in No. 92.

LIST of Despatches for reference.

I. Spanish subject Butler's captivity—

Sir J. D. Hay's No. 53 of August 9, 1871.
" " No. 90 of October 24, 1874.
" " No. 99 of November 24, 1874.

II. Mr. Mackenzie's proceedings, and advice to Sultan to open a port in Soos—

Slave Trade series—

Mr. White's No. 2 of August 16, 1876.

Sir J. D. Hay's observations on this despatch given to Foreign Office on September 6, 1876.

Political series—

Sir J. D. Hay's No. 36 of May 28, 1879.

Sir J. D. Hay to Sir J. Pauncfote, London, August 16, 1879.

Commercial series—

Sir J. D. Hay's No. 9 of November 27, 1879.

" " No. 14 of May 28, 1880.

Lord Salisbury's No. 3 of December 17, 1879.

Lord Granville's No. 4 of June 14, 1880.

III. Soos and North African Company and Curtis—

Slave Trade series—

Sir J. D. Hay's No. 9 of November 3, 1881.

* See despatch No. 79 of August 29, 1883.

† See despatch No. 42 of September 22, 1882.

‡ See Nos. 35 and 77.

Political series—

Sir J. D. Hay's No. 26 of April 4, 1883.
 " " No. 30 of April 8, "
 " " No. 31 of April 11, "
 " " No. 37 of May 6, "
 " " No. 41 of May 28, "
 " " No. 46 of June 5, "
 " " No. 51 of June 16, "
 " " No. 55 of June 29, "
 " " No. 62 of July 2, "
 " " No. 71 of July 27, "
 " " No. 78 of August 27, 1883.
 " " No. 79 of August 29, "
 " " No. 3 of January 8, 1884.
 " " No. 10 of February 6, 1884.

Sir J. D. Hay's No. 18 of March 12, 1884.
 " " No. 19 of March 13, "
 " " No. 23 of March 22, "
 " " No. 59 of June 12, "
 Lord Granville's No. 30 of July 5, 1883.
 " " No. 34 of July 13, "
 " " No. 42 of September 22, 1883.
 " " No. 55 of December 22, "
 " " No. 2 of February 4, 1884.
 " " No. 3 of February 21, "
 " " No. 8 of March 13, "
 " " No. 10 of March 25, "
 " " No. 11 of March 29, "
 " " No. 12 of April 8, "

No. 93.

Consul-General Playfair to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 31.)

(No. 38.)
 My Lord,

Algiers, May 24, 1886.

I HAVE been requested by Consul Sandwith to transmit to your Lordship the following documents regarding the affairs of General Hamida Ben Ayad, namely:—

Consul Sandwith's despatch No. 17 dated the 22nd April, to my address.

(A.) A document headed "Le Procès Ben Ayad."*

(B.) Two copies of the "Gazette du Palais."*

(C.) A document marked "Réponse à l'Extrait de la 'Gazette du Palais.'"

I do not think that any further observations are necessary on my part; I could have wished that the documents were less voluminous, but I cannot resist forwarding them as General Ben Ayad attaches great importance to their being in your Lordship's hands.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

Inclosure in No. 93.

Consul Sandwith to Consul-General Playfair.

Tunis, April 22, 1886.

Sir,

I INCLOSE, for your consideration, further documents relating to the case in dispute between General Ben Ayad and his cousins. The first, marked (A), contains the written opinion of Mr. Sewell, the second of the two English lawyers in Paris recommended to General Ben Ayad by Lord Lyons; the second, marked (B), contains the speech made by M. Cruppi, the Avocat de la République in the late trial at Paris, published in two successive numbers of the official paper, the "Gazette du Palais;" and the third, marked (C), is a paper written by General Ben Ayad himself in answer to the speech of M. Cruppi.

From Mr. Sewell's opinion, as well as from that of the other English lawyer which I forwarded to you in my despatch of the 1st instant, it seems evident that there has been a miscarriage of justice in the case, which he attributes mainly to the improper application of French law to a purely Mussulman case, and to the neglect of several important principles of Mussulman law which have a strong bearing on certain of the points in question; this, as you will see, is apparent from several passages in his opinion.

But General Ben Ayad grounds his protest against the decision mainly on the fact that the French Government interfered in the case, overruling the Judgment of the Court, and compelling them to decide in favour of his opponents, by introducing the political consideration that the case was that of an English-protected subject against a Frenchman; and this is the point which he is anxious to have brought before the notice of the English Government, so as to induce them to interfere in the forthcoming appeal to insure a fair trial to be decided simply on the merits of the case to the exclusion of all political considerations in the matter.

The only actual proof of such interference on the part of the French Government is furnished by the inclosed speech of the Avocat de la République; and although I have failed to find in it any such clear evidence of the fact which General Ben Ayad insists upon as he himself seems to have done, still the whole tone of the speech is so

* Not printed.

decidedly so bitterly hostile to General Ben Ayad, the contempt expressed for Mussulman law and Mussulman processes is so strong, and in such a case as this so misplaced, and the misstatements so numerous and so glaring, that it is hardly possible to read it without arriving at the conclusion that it was inspired by some motive other than the desire that pure justice should be done in the matter.

Still, as I could find no such definite evidence of Government interference, and no such insistence on the political bearing of the case, as being that of an Englishman against a Frenchman, as General Ben Ayad and his advisers here had led me to expect, I asked them to point out the passages in the speech which, in their opinion, furnished the strongest evidence for their view, and they have marked those passages in the document (B) which you will find underlined in blue pencil.

If, upon perusal of these documents, and especially of M. Cruppi's speech, you are of opinion that political influence has been brought to bear upon the result of the trial by the French Government, or by any of its officials, and that the case was not tried strictly upon its merits, I would ask you, on General Hamida Ben Ayad's behalf, to exert all your influence, either with Lord Lyons or with the Foreign Office, as you may think best, to insure that the forthcoming appeal shall be fairly tried, and that no political considerations shall be imported into the case in future.

The case in its legal aspects is a very complicated one, but with that aspect it seems to me we can have nothing to do, and the issue is narrowed down to the simple question, whether or not the French Government has unduly interfered in the case, and, if so, whether the English Government will endeavour to prevent such interference when the case comes on in the Court of Appeal.

The actual sum of money involved in the case is very large, and I would remind you that the influence of the decision of the Court of Appeal will extend to other cases still pending and involving other very large sums.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 94.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 20.)
 Sir,

Foreign Office, June 5, 1886.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 25 of the 18th ultimo, inclosing a letter from the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, protesting against foreigners visiting the coast of Soos for purposes of trade contrary to the established Regulations, and I have to state that I approve the action which you propose to take in the matter, as explained in your above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 95.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 29.)
 My Lord,

Tangier, June 2, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 19 of the 26th ultimo, transmitting the copy of a despatch from Consul-General Playfair relative to the state of affairs on the frontier of Morocco.

With reference to this subject, tidings have reached me that the Governor of Oochda, Cid Abd-el-Malek, has been removed by the Sultan from that command, and the brother of the Military Governor of Fez, Hadj Tayeb Boo Mohammed Esherguy, has been appointed in his place.

It would appear that the Sultan disapproved of the conduct of Ben Abd-el-Malek on account of his having sought refuge on the French territory when attacked by the tribe of Mehaya, and of having asked for the armed intervention of the French military authorities. Tranquillity has since been restored on the frontier.

The Sultan has taken umbrage also on account of the great Shereef of Wazan, Hadj Abdsalam, having presented himself as a mediator between the tribes of Angud and Mehaya, for he is regarded by His Majesty as a traitor ever since he obtained French protection and had received the support of the late French Minister, M. Ordega, in

his attempt to raise an insurrection against the Sultan's authority in the northern provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 96.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 27.)

My Lord,

Tunis, June 7, 1886.

M. CAMBON, the French Minister Resident at Tunis, whose journey to the south of the Regency I had the honour to report in my despatch No. 25 of the 24th ultimo, returned from his tour last week. He appears to have been satisfied with the reception given him by the tribes which he visited in that region, and he spent several days in their midst. There would seem to be no apprehension of a repetition of the late raids, which are wont to take place in the spring, though they were of a more serious nature than usual. It is impossible to discover at this distance of time and place whether they were instigated by foreign agents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 97.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 63.)

Foreign Office, June 15, 1886.

[Transmits copies of Sir J. Drummond Hay's No. 25 of May 18; and to ditto, No. 20, of June 5, 1886: *ante*, Nos. 86 and 94.]

No. 98.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 22.)

Foreign Office, June 15, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Consul-General Playfair's No. 4 of May 14, 1886: *ante*, No. 84.]

No. 99.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 31. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, June 13, 1886.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 24, Commercial, of the 10th instant, reporting the agitation produced in the interior by the promulgation of the Sultan's Edict regarding commercial relations with foreign countries, I have the honour to transmit the translation of a private and confidential letter I have addressed to the Vizier Garneet, urging that the Sultan should continue to take active steps to repress any fanatical outbreak, and that I trusted the energetic and praiseworthy conduct of the Governor and other officials at Fez, in preventing the commission of outrages on the Jews, may be favourably noticed by His Shereefian Majesty.

Apprehensions still prevail amongst the Jews that, after the fast of the Ramadan, the Mahommedans at Fez and other towns may attack and pillage the Jewish quarters, and as I consider, setting aside the atrocities which might be committed on such an occasion upon a helpless people, the danger that public opinion throughout Europe would in such an emergency approve, or even call for, the armed intervention of France, which might lead to the entry of a large French force and the occupation of Fez in the name of humanity and civilization, followed no doubt, in due time, by the annexation and incorporation of Morocco, as has happened at Tunis.

During the forty-one years I have been in Morocco I have never ceased to do all in my power to prevent such a catastrophe, being of opinion that it would affect most

injuriously British interests, on account of the command which a Great Power holding the seaboard of the Straits and the Mediterranean would possess. It is on this account I lost no time in writing as I have done to the Moorish Court.

I also addressed a letter in the same sense to one of the Sultan's Secretaries who has been sent on a mission to Fez, requesting him to convey the expression of my satisfaction and assurances of friendship to the Governor and other officials on account of their meritorious conduct in taking energetic steps to prevent the pillage of the Jews' quarter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure in No. 99.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Vizier Garneet.

(Translation.)

(Private and Confidential.)

(After compliments.)

June 13, 1886.

SINCE the collective letter of the Representatives of Germany, France, and Great Britain was addressed to you on the 9th instant, relative to the disturbances which took place at Fez, I have received tidings of the energetic conduct of the Governor of Fez, Kaid Abdallah Ben Ahmed, of Hadj Seid Weld, Kaid Farajy, and other officers in repressing the tumult and preventing the commission of outrages on the Jewish population by the arrest and punishment of the ringleaders of the mob.

I feel persuaded the Sultan will mark his satisfaction at the meritorious conduct of these officers. I write to my friend, the Sultan's Secretary, Cid Mohammed Ben Suleyman, now at Fez, to convey to the Governor, Cid Abdallah Ben Ahmed, with whom I am acquainted, the assurance of my regard and friendship on account of the energetic measures he took to prevent the pillage of the Mellah* and the commission of outrages on the Jewish population, proving himself to be a faithful officer of His Shereefian Majesty.

I need not point out to you the very grave consequences that would have ensued had the Mellah been pillaged and other outrages committed; such a catastrophe would have roused throughout Europe and America the strongest feelings of animosity towards the Mahommedans of Morocco, which might have led to the adoption of radical measures with the view of insuring the future safety of Christians and Jews, and have thus placed in jeopardy the independence of the Sultan and integrity of his dominions, whilst the Powers which have hitherto entertained feelings of friendship towards the Sultan and a desire to uphold his independence could not have intervened in behalf of a Government which had lost all power of control over its fanatical subjects.

I write all this in a spirit of true friendship towards His Shereefian Majesty, who, with his clear judgment and well-known wisdom, will, I am persuaded, continue to take energetic and decided steps to prevent further outbreaks of fanaticism, and to reward those officers who have merited by their conduct on this occasion His Majesty's favour.

Peace.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 100.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 33.)

My Lord,

Tangier, June 20, 1886.

WITH reference to the despatches marked in the margin† on the subject of prisons in Morocco, I have the honour to transmit the translation of a letter addressed to me by the Vizier, Cid Emfadl Garneet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

* Jewish quarter.—J. H. D. H.

† No. 20, March 18; No. 37, May 4, 1885; and *ante*, No. 22.

Inclosure in No. 100.

The Vizier Cid Emfadl Garneet to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

25 Shaban, 1303 (May 30, 1886).

WE received your letter making known what your Government had written regarding the state of the prisons and prisoners, and we communicated to His Shereefian Majesty all that you have stated in that letter, and His Majesty ordered us to reply that there has been no neglect in issuing orders regarding a proper supply of food. The Governors of the provinces have been required to provide daily the requisite food to prisoners.

With regard to those who are prisoners from the country, there is a daily pecuniary allowance made to them for food.

If irons are placed on certain prisoners it is because many of them are very daring characters, known to be guilty of crimes such as murder, robbery, &c., and were not irons placed and guards they would make holes in the prison walls and escape from prison, or they would break down the gates and escape. This they did at the prisons of Zorhon, Meknez, Oochda, and other places.

As to the cleansing of prisons and like matters, every prison has a guardian to look after this; moreover, the majority of the prisoners are inhabitants of the country, who care not for cleanliness, and dirty their cells as fast as they are cleaned; neither do they care to enter into clean places.

As to the prisoners inhabitants of the towns, they have especial places which are cleansed set aside for them.

With regard to the prisoners who are debtors to British merchants, orders have been sent to their Governors to transfer them to the ports where their creditors reside, in order that the claims against them be examined into in the manner that you have suggested,* and to which an answer has already been sent.

You are requested to convey to your friendly Government the thanks of His Shereefian Majesty for having made, through you, a friendly communication on the subject of the prisoners, and thus seeking for the general welfare.

Wishing you well.

(Signed)

MOHAMED EMFADL MOHAMED GARNEET.

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* See Inclosure in No. 22. The mode of procedure in cases of debt was approved of by the Sultan and by Her Majesty's Government.—J. H. D. H.